DUDLEY
CHRONICLE

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Grave attack

Plea for action after vandals hit churchyard

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Young Ryan's Open to joining the pro ranks

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More power sought to help with hospital recovery

AN ELECTED board governor at the under-fire Russells Hall Hospital has called for more power as the hospital bids to bounce back from a critical Government report.

Dudley councillor and hospital governor Steve Waltho admits he is 'deeply concerned' by some of the failings uncovered in the report, but says he is backing chief executive Paula Clark to lead the hospital trust forward.

NHS medical director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh raised concerns over staffing levels, communication, complaints handling and safety checking at the hospital – but spared it being placed in special measures, unlike 11 other hospitals. Councillor Waltho said: "We were very concerned the hospital was one of the 14 to be investigated for death mortality rates – but then pleased it has not been placed in special measures.

"However, there are areas of concern which need improving and we, the board of governors, will be playing a part scrutinising the work of the board of directors to ensure the improvements are made."

He added: "We have the power to hold the board to account, but this is limited – I personally, would like to see more power for the governors. But it is a balancing act as too much power results in responsibility and at the end of the day we are only volunteers, not medical experts."

Miss Clark was forced to defend herself in the face of calls by former elected board governors Bill Etheridge and Major Robbins for her to step down following the report.

Opinion

Mr Etheridge, who resigned from the board earlier this year in a protest on parking charges, said: "When it's not working, let's be honest with each other, it's time to change things."

But Miss Clark, who welcomed the report, said: "No, I'm not stepping down. Bill is entitled to his opinion but I'm very heartened by the fact that the regulator Monitor say they are happy with the leadership of the hospital, confident that this is the right leadership to take the hospital forward. I'm here to carry on the improvement journey we have already started and I believe we have the right people here to do the job for the people of Dudley."

Ms Clark said the management system would be looked at. She said: "We will take our time to look at the review report in full and we will discuss that with the governors."

● Pledge – Page 5

SPECIAL MEASURE PLEDGE TO SCHOOL

DUDLEY'S education chief has pledged the authority will ensure standards at a Sedgley school which has been put into special measure after a damning Ofsted inspection will be raised as quickly as possible.

by Andrew Turton

Dormston School, in Mill Bank, has been judged as 'inadequate' with inspectors criticising teaching standards and achievement of pupils.

Headteacher Stephanie Sherwood is leaving to be replaced by Ben Stitchman from September.

Inspectors said staff failed to ensure students make enough progress with GCSE courses in Year 11.

Lacking

Standards were too low in English and mathematics and too few students gain five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C. School C.

Governors were criticised for 'lacking understanding' over weaknesses and for failing to hold teachers to account.

Dudley education chief Councillor Tim Crumpton said the authority would help ensure standards for pupils were raised as quickly as possible.

"We will also ensure that extra resources are made available to enable the school to return to the education standards that all the children deserve," he said.

Lead Ofsted inspector Simon Blackburn said: "Teaching is inadequate because too much work is not well planned or appropriately matched to students' level of ability."

Ofsted spokeswoman Nadina Mustafa said regular visits would be carried out every six months to ensure improvements were being carried out.

"We will be working with the local authority and school governors to support them in the work that has to be done," she said.

Our little princess just pips royal baby

WHILE the eyes of the world were fixed on St Mary's Hospital in Paddington waiting for news of the royal baby, one Coseley couple were busy having their own little 'princess' at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Sarah Parton pipped the Duchess of Cambridge to the post and gave birth to a baby girl named Jorgie-May on Monday at 4.09pm – just 15 minutes before Kate.

At 6lb 5oz Jorgie-May is lighter than the royal boy and at three hours, Miss Parton's labour was a good deal shorter than Kate's.

The 24-year old said: "I was induced at 1pm and had Jorgie-May three hours later. The next thing I knew, the nurses said the royal baby was born 15 minutes after mine. It's crazy.

Memento

"The royal baby will be on the news all the time so I'll get to see them grow up together. I take a bit of an interest in the royals but I will do ever more now that my daughter's got the same birthday."

Miss Parton plans to apply for a special silver coin, which will be offered to mothers whose babies share the royal birthday.

"It would be a lovely memento for her to grow up with," she said.

Miss Parton's partner Christian Nash, 22, had joked their baby could be born on the same day. Mr Nash said: "We said it would be mad if they were born at the same time but we didn't think it would only be 15 minutes apart."

Celebrating are Sarah Parton and Christian Nash with Jorgie-May Nash who was born just minutes before the royal baby

Cabbies in row over delays to car checks

DISGRUNTLED taxi drivers will meet council bosses to discuss concerns amid a row over vehicle tests.

Cabbies have complained about delays when vehicles are taken in for tests at Dudley Council's garage.

They claim the Lister Road depot does not have the capacity to handle the roadworthiness checks for the borough's hundreds of licensed vehicles.

Drivers say their cars can be off the road for days while they wait to be tested causing them to lose money.

Council transport boss Khurshid Ahmed said he would listen to them.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, said: "I've heard of four drivers – one from Brierley Hill, two from Stourbridge and one from Halesowen – who have been off the road for three or four days waiting for re-tests because Lister Road couldn't fit them in."

Nasar Hussain, manager of Stourbridge-based Falcon Taxis, said two small faults failed one driver's car on a Wednesday at 7.30am .

"He got it fixed by 12pm that day but Lister Road depot could not fit in a re-test until Monday afternoon, so the driver is losing five days of fares" he said.

Councillor Ahmed said: "We are aware of the concerns raised by the taxi drivers and will be discussing the issues with them as soon as possible."

Snow leopard cub dies at zoo

THE newly-born snow leopard cub at Dudley Zoo has died at just 11 weeks old.

Nidara, was the offspring of mother, four-year-old Nanga, and father, three-year-old Margaash. It was the first leopard to be born at the attraction in 12 years.

Zoo spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "The 11-week-old cub died in the presence of zoo staff and the zoo vet. "There had been no previous indication there was anything wrong with the youngster and we are currently awaiting the vet's report.

Battle to preserve theatre continues

CAMPAIGNERS will hit the streets to whip up support in a last-ditch bid to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozers this weekend.

A decision on whether the theatre on Castle Hill can be torn down will be taken by councillors on August 5.

But protesters want to raise awareness of the building's plight and educate residents on their plans for its future.

The demonstration will take place on Saturday at the fountain at Dudley market place, High Street, from 11am.

Campaigners will hand out leaflets and chat to shoppers to try to highlight their vision for the venue.

Protesters are also making placards but they say the gathering will remain peaceful.

Campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick said: "We think it is a good way of showing the council that we mean business while also getting the message out there."

He added: "The Hippodrome could be an amazing community hub, and bring tens of thousands of visitors to Dudley."

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group discussed the issue with the borough's regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster last week and Mr Fitzpatrick said the talks were positive.

The Dudley Regeneration Group has also objected to the demolition.

Blaze hits flat kitchen

FIREFIGHTERS were called after a blaze broke out in the kitchen of a flat in the Black Country.

Crews were called to the second floor flat in Bodmin Court, Lower Derry Street, Brierley Hill at 7.30pm on Monday.

The fire was contained to the kitchen and is believed to have been sparked accidentally.

Crews from Brierley Hill, Cradley Heath and Tipton attended and spent around 90 minutes at the scene.

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Brenda Christie, second left, with other Zumbathon participants and Jenny Worwood, Age UK Dudley's Springboard project coordinator, and Zumba instructor Joanna Handley, seventh left

Springboard into action

ENTHUSIASTIC over-50s showed they had all the moves by taking part in a sponsored 'Zumbathon'.

A group of 30 people raised £1,300 for Age UK Dudley at the event at Brierley Hill Methodist Church, Bank Street. Instructor Joanna Handley said: "It was a fantastic event and everyone had a great laugh and was very cheerful."

The Zumbathon, which took place on July 15, was part of the charity's Springboard project, which provides activities for more than 350 people, the oldest of whom is 100 years old.

Another participant, Brenda Christie, aged 63, who lives in Stourbridge, said: "I couldn't believe how quickly the time went. The afternoon made me feel really good."

Springboard coordinator Jenny Worwood said: "We are so grateful for everyone's effort and supporting us, especially in the heat. "This great achievement will help keep our Springboard project running."

Explosions rock estate after cables strike trees

EXPLOSIONS rocked a housing estate in Dudley as overhead cables struck trees causing power cuts to more 35,000 homes.

Residents were left terrified as the cables running behind their homes sagged due to the heat. One of the lines connected with a tree causing the first explosion and branches to catch fire last Wednesday.

Minutes later there was a second loud bang as the shorting out of the first cable caused another to sag due to the increased electrical load. This hit another tree, setting it alight.

Police, fire crews and workers from Western Power Distribution were called to Kenilworth Court and Scotts Green Close at around 1.50pm. They isolated the power so repairs could be carried out.

Power cuts were reported in Dudley and Lye. Householders at 12 addresses in Kenilworth Court and a further 10 in Scotts Green Close were told to remain in their homes as a precaution.

Prevent

Fire crews said fires had 'burned themselves out, and they did not need to take any action. Power restored by 2pm after the repairs.

Contractors cut down the tops of the trees to prevent it happening again. .

Police set up a cordon as youngsters from the nearby Holly Hall Academy left school for the day as a precaution.

Resident Peter Brown was sitting in his garden when the first explosion occurred.

"The tree is very close to my back garden. At first it sounded like someone had started a garden strimmer then there was a loud bang," he said.

"It was absolutely terrifying. I immediately called the power company. As they arrived there was a second explosion. Thankfully noone was hurt and there was no damage to homes in the area."

Chip shop is fined £4.5k for hazards with hygiene

A FISH and chip shop Netherton has been ordered to pay £5,500 due to poor standards of hygiene.

Darby End Flames, now known as Darby End Fish Bar, in Northfield Road, was rated zero out of five for its hygiene during an inspection by environmental health officers.

Sharon and Sukh Ltd, the company that owns the takeaway, admitted seven offences, including a failure to tackle food safety hazards, not keeping the premises and equipment clean and in good repair, having inadequate handwashing facilities and failing to make sure food handlers were properly trained.

Dudley magistrates fined the firm £4,500 with £1,000 costs.

Councillor Tracy Wood, Dudley Council's cabinet member for the environment, said the offences were discovered during an inspection in June 2012.

She added that Darby End Fish Bar had since improved to a 'broadly compliant' hygiene rating of three out of five.

She added: "This prosecution sends out a clear message that we're tough on food hygiene."

Epic journey for vintage bike

Jonathan Clarke with the 1947 New Hudson bike which he used for his challenge

A CLASSIC bike enthusiast jumped on his vintage motorcycle for a charity challenge from John O' Groats to Land's End.

Jonathan Clarke, aged 21, completed the journey of more than 600 miles on his 1947 New Hudson bike earlier this month.

Mr Clarke, who works as a classic car trimmer, said he had heard of other people embarking on the challenge but had wanted to do it a little differently.

He decided to use the vintage cycle for the journey. Mr Clarke, of Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, started out on his epic challenge on July 1.

The bike has a cruising speed of between 22mph and 25mph and the total journey took him nine days to complete.

He raised £1,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance from the challenge with sponsorship donated by friends, family and work colleagues.

Mr Clarke said: "I know quite a few people have done this challenge but they have tended to use modern cycles. I want to do something a bit different.

"I am a bike enthusiast and purchased the New Hudson from ebay. All I have done to the bike since receiving it is to re-build the engine. Part of the reason I wanted to stage this challenge was to prove the bike could do it and I am really pleased to have done that."

Journey's end for Jonathan Clarke

Mr Clarke thanked everyone who had supported him in the challenge. He works for Aldridge Trimming, which specialises in fitting out the interiors of classic vehicles such as Jaguars and Mercedes.

Pupils join together for clothes aid

THE Mayor of Dudley met students from two schools working together to help children and families in the West African country of Gambia.

Councillor Alan Finch saw pupils from Ridgewood High, Stourbridge, and Peter's Hill Primary, Brierley Hill, during a handover of old uniforms from the primary school.

Peter's Hill pupils are updating their uniform and their uniform supplier, Uniformity, suggested they collect old uniforms to donate to Ridgewood's Project Gambia.

James Ndomahina and Donald Greywoode, from Gambia's Newlife Children's Centre, which runs two schools, were at Peter's Hill to receive the clothes.

Councillor Finch said: "It was great to meet the pupils taking part and also James and Donald from Newlife.

"The schools from our borough are having a great impact in schools from a very poor area of Gambia."

Parliament has a jolly good beer

AN ale brewed in the Black Country is being served in Parliament's Strangers' Bar.

Crispin's Ommer, produced by the Fownes Brewing Company, Upper Gornal, has been drafted in as a guest ale at the request of the Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

To celebrate the achievement he shared a pint with brewer James Fownes.

Mr Austin said: "The Black Country is home to the country's best ales and Fownes' beers were no exception when I tried them earlier this year.

"James and Tom Fownes have done a great job setting up the brewery.

"I want to help support local businesses like theirs so I'm delighted that MPs from across the country will now have the chance to sample our award-winning local brews."

Fownes Brewery is based at the Jolly Crispin pub, Clarence Street.

Gardening show

SEDGLEY Gardening Club will hold its flower show at Sedgley Community Centre Ladies Walk, on August 17 from 12.30pm. There are flower, vegetable classes, jam,cake and honey classes. There will be a brass band and cream teas.

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Gun-claim robber sent to prison

A MAN who walked into a kebab shop and told staff he had a gun as he demanded cash has been jailed.

Paul Summers, aged 40, of Woodcroft Close, Cradley Heath, tried to get the money from workers at Charlie's Kebab House, Bromsgrove on April 14.

After admitting to attempted robbery when he appeared at Worcester Crown Court, Summers was jailed for 20 months.

Jamie Gillard, 32, of Swan Street, Dudley, denied attempted robbery, but admitted aggravated vehicle-taking, drink-driving and driving without insurance.

The court accepted his plea and he was jailed for 14 months and banned from driving for two years.

No firearm was found when police arrested the pair.

Dog put on show in aid of charity

AROUND 60 dogs and hundreds of animal lovers turned out at Baggeridge Country Park to help raise funds for a good cause.

The annual dog show returned on Saturday with a host of competitions celebrating man's best friend –all in aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Attendance was slightly down on last year, so organisers are planning a second show at the same venue on September 28.

Organiser Alan Hunt, of Caddick Street, Coseley, said: "It was a fun dog show with around 12 categories, including Most Handsome Dog, Best Puppy, Best Rescue, and things like that.

"We also had a breedings competition and an agility competition. "It's a smashing day out, with lots of rosettes being given out ."

Staff moving to make savings

AROUND 40 Dudley Council staff were moving to new offices this week – the first of 400 workers being relocated to cut costs.

The private sector housing team will be the first to move to Harbour Buildings, at Brierley Hill's Waterfront complex. They are leaving their long-term base in St James's Road, Dudley.

Council chiefs said moving staff from six sites moving to the complex, will save £150,000 per year.

Brave father loses 15-year leukaemia fight

Mark Rutter – died aged 39

A BRAVE father who had battled against leukaemia for 15 years – beating it twice – has died just 10 days after celebrating his 40th birthday.

Sporty Mark Rutter, who played football and cricket and enjoyed taking his two young sons to Aston Villa matches, was described by his grieving father, Graham, as 'my best friend'.

Mark, from Kingswinford, discovered he had leukaemia only when he broke his ribs while playing football for Enville Athletic and a blood test showed he had the illness in 1998.

He responded to treatment and, after making a full recovery, married his wife Kate, described as 'the love of his life', in 1999. But, three years later, leukaemia struck again – and once more he recovered after a course of intense chemotherapy.

The treatment left him with heart problems but he kept living life to the full, taking his sons Harvey, aged 12, and eight-year-old Niall to Aston Villa matches.

He played cricket for Clent, near Stourbridge, and coached Harvey at Swindon Cricket Club, helping the youngster to become good enough to play for Worcestershire's Under 12 team.

Mark, of Broad Street, Kingswinford, also raised money for the Georgina Cancer Unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, where he was treated, and was chairman of the Kingswinford Lions Villa supporters' group.

But the family was dealt a crushing blow when he was told in March that his leukaemia had returned for the third time.

Once more he put up a fight – but he died on July 9 in Russells Hall Hospital.

Graham Rutter, aged 60, of Cherry Grove, Norton, Stourbridge, said: "He was not just my son – he was my best friend."

His funeral was on Monday at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, Stourbridge. He requested that all Villa fans wear their club ties or any sports club tie.

Borough GP services need more investment – doctor

INCREASED workloads combined with fewer GPs in Dudley borough could eventually push them to the limit and threaten patient care, a senior doctor has warned.

by Alex Ross

Dr Jas Rathore is calling for more investment in GP services across the borough. The doctor, who has run a practice in Dudley for 20 years, fears the expected retirement of a fifth of GPs in the borough in the next 10 years, along with an increased workload as health bosses attempt to shift patients from hospitals to surgeries, could cause problems in the future.

Dr Rathore, who is also clinical executive for the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), has called on NHS England to plough more investment into recruiting new GPs and updating ageing practices.

"There is no danger or risk to the patient at this present moment, my concern is in the coming years if there is no change and we have a downward trend on the numbers of doctors and not the investment," he said.

"I fear it could head us to a stage where the working levels of GPs are unsafe, where they are seeing too many patients in the day and they are functioning with stress, which would impact their work."

In a report to Dudley Council's health scrutiny committee meeting, Dr Rathore said there were 40 GPs in the Dudley borough, with almost 200 doctors.

However, 27 per cent of those are aged above 54 and 10 per cent above 64.

Dr Rathore believes 20 per cent of the doctors will retire within the next 10 years.

He is already feeling an increase in patient demand at his surgery, which currently has four doctors, from just five years ago.

"Doctors work an average two-and-a-half hours surgery in the morning, followed by three home visits and three hours surgery in the afternoon," he said. "I'm concerned doctors will be asked to squeeze more hours in the day than possible."

As part of the report, Dr Rathore is calling for greater funding from NHS England.

He is also proposing functions, such as payroll, be linked between smaller practices to help them cope.

CCG spokeswoman Laura Broster said its member GPs were a priority.

"The CCG does not commission primary care services but the focus of the strategy is on developing local primary care and supporting practices to provide high quality services for patients," she said.

Firm's lucky fire escape

A PILE of tyres went up in flames in Dudley spreading flames to a building they had been stacked against. The quick response of firefighters saved Quickshift Autos, Turner Street, from serious damage after around 60 tyres were destroyed just after 10pm on Saturday. West Midlands Police confirmed it is treating the blaze as arson.

Patrol plea on vandalised gravestone

Deb Brownlee, front, with Diana Costello, Jane Langdon, Martin Day, Joyce O'Donnell and Tony Timmins at the headstone

A FAMILY gravestone that has stood tall in a Dudley churchyard for nearly 130 years has been vandalised, angering parishioners.

The preservation group at the disused St John's Church, Kates Hill, is now appealing for volunteers to patrol the graveyard in pairs.

"We are absolutely furious and horrified," said Deb Brownlee, chairman of St John's Church Preservation Group.

"To think that this substantial stone, marking the grave of three members of the same family, has stood there for 129 years, and now someone has just knocked it over and smashed it up, it's very sad."

The stone, near the lychgate, bore the names of Sarah Cautherington, who died on July 10, 1884, in her 67th year, her husband James, who followed her to the grave, aged 77, 12 years later, and their daughter Mary Ann Cautherington, who was 59 when she passed away in 1899. Church officials are appealing for descendants of the Cautheringtons to contact them.

The desecration was discovered by Tony Timmins, a 65-year-old committee member of the group, as he walked his dog. "I was very distressed by it," he said.

Mrs Brownlee said: "I would like anyone willing to help, or with any information about the attack or about the Cautherington family, to contact us on 07871 195042 or email savestjohnschurch@hotmail.co.uk."

NEWS in brief

Driver passes out at wheel of his bus

A DRIVER passed out at the wheel of a packed double decker bus which mounted the pavement in Stourbridge. Passengers went to his aid on the 246 bus journeying from Dudley through Amblecote on Thursday at 5pm.

They said the driver slumped at the wheel as he drove down the A491 near the Platt Crescent and Brettell Lane crossroads. The bus mounted the kerb but this jolted the driver who braked and avoided hitting any collision.

Paramedics checked the driver, who did not require hospital treatment. National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: "We are investigating the cause."

Castle will fall to re-enactors

MEMBERS of Historia Normannis, a 12th century re-enactment group, will be taking over Dudley Castle, at the heart of Dudley Zoo, this weekend.

The re-enactors will be showcasing their skills with knights, archery displays, woodwork, music and an authentic fashion show in a history lesson with a difference.

A group spokesman said it aimed to portray 12th century life in an accurate, engaging and exciting way. Events run from 11am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Worker suffers electric shock

A WORKER was taken to hospital after suffering an electric shock at a manufacturing company in Halesowen.

He had been testing newly-made welding products at Kuka Systems, Hereward Rise, at 7am on Saturday. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Sales director Nick Edge said the man had made a full recovery and was back in work.

Blaze breaks out in hotel bathroom

A HOTEL was evacuated after a faulty extractor fan caught fire in an en-suite bathroom. Fire crews were called to the Kingsfisher Hotel, Kidderminster Road, Wall Heath, at around 9.45am on Tuesday.

Only two guests were at the hotel. They gathered outside the building along with members of staff as a precaution while the blaze was extinguished.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

MY RECENT thread on odd married names (Hope Pope, Eva Weaver, etc) reminds a reader that some men are born with curious names. He says he can never hear the BBC reporter Phil McCann without thinking: "What – from here?"

□□□□□□□□

AS ZARA Phillips decides to give up riding during her pregnancy, Woman's Hour (Radio 4) puts together a report to advise women that while some exercise is perfectly fine in pregnancy, kickboxing is not.

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QUESTION: What do you call an old lady who says: "Don't be so damn silly, girl, of course you shouldn't be riding." Answer: Your Majesty.

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A FRIEND is building a tiny extension and the local council invites all his neighbours to read the 17 documents involved in the planning application, and comment. I was particularly impressed with the bat inspector's report. It takes just over 2,500 words to tell us 'no bats here'.

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THE feeble 15-month sentence imposed on Stuart Hall is to be reviewed, and a good thing too. But let's hope the authorities are not focusing solely on the former BBC presenter. One allegation against him makes your flesh creep. It was a victim describing how when she was 13 she was at the house of a schoolmate whose father was friendly with Hall. The girls drank too much vermouth and she was sick. She recalled: "My friend's mother came up and took me to the bathroom, undressed me. Then Stuart Hall came in. She left me and told him to bath me." Hall then committed a 'frenzied' assault against her. As the Jimmy Savile scandal grew, we learned how many TV executives, NHS bosses and prison officials were complicit in the disc jockey's unspeakable activities. Somehow, the thought of a mother aiding and abetting a paedophile by eagerly ushering Stuart Hall into a girl's bathroom takes it all to a lower and infinitely nastier level. There must surely be more prosecutions.

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THE best CV is only as good as its weakest part. An employer tells me he was greatly impressed with one application for a café assistant until he read the bit about how the applicant had worked 'a variety of shifts including weekends' and unfortunately left out the F.

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THE hosepipe bans cannot be far away. Will that be the spur this Government needs to make it drop the ludicrous HS2 train project (£42,000 million and rising every second) and build a UK water grid? Most rail and tram projects provide billion-pound contracts for foreign manufacturers. Creating a 21st century network of canals, aqueducts, irrigation trenches and fountains would ensure there is water for all while creating British jobs for British workers.

□□□□□□□□

POLICE in Wales have issued a warning about 'rogue' ecstasy tablets. Not to be confused with good, old-fashioned, traditional, wholemeal, health-giving ecstasy, just like granny used to take.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Footballers score for Stan's cancer charity

TALENTED footballers were celebrating after they raised more than £1,000 for a cancer charity Cure Leukaemia during a tournament.

A total of 33 teams played in the Support Stan five-a-side competition, which was hosted by Goals Dudley at its centre off Cakemore Road. Ex-professionals took part alongside friends of former Aston Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov – nicknamed Stan – who was diagnosed with acute leukemia last year.

Assistant centre manager Dave Challoner said: "It's a fantastic amount of money to raise and we are just happy that we could help. It was a testament to Stan's character that such big names took the time to show their support."

Free Radio DJ Russ Morris provided the music and staff provided free coaching and games for children. Boing FC, the official supporters' side for West Bromwich Albion, beat Hod Harriers 4-1 in the final.

To donate, visit www.cureleukaemia.co.uk/events.php?story=76

Pupils get life-saving lessons on epilepsy

PUPILS from a Dudley school have received a life-saving lesson about epilepsy from a national charity.

Dudley Wood Primary, Dudley Wood Road, Netherton, received expert training from Young Epilepsy as part of the Epilepsy Education 4 Schools program, which is designed to improve the lives of the 112,000 young sufferers.

The sessions included assemblies and lessons in which pupils took part in activities to match their age group such as songs, stories and discussion on people's feelings, with staff also receiving training.

Assistant headteacher Anthea Collinge said; "Our hope was that the day would give the children an understanding of what epilepsy is and how to help when someone has a seizure.

"The day has exceeded our expectations, as Young Epilepsy presented assemblies, lessons and staff meetings that were informative, inspiring, creative and fun. The children really enjoyed it, too."

MP will champion sports to fight fat

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has signed up to a sports campaign aimed at tackling rising obesity rates.

She will help to champion the interests of local sport in Parliament and promote sport schemes in the area.

Ms James will also work with Black Country BeActive, which provides opportunities for people to take part in sport and physical activity.

It is one of 49 County Sports Partnerships inthe country working to increase participation in sport.

She said that according to NHS figures 51,317 people are currently classed as obese in Dudley.

"At current rates this figure could increase to 24.9 per cent of the adult population in Dudley by 2016," she said. T

"To tackle this, County Sports Partnerships is bringing together the governing bodies of sport, community clubs, schools, leisure facilities, local authorities and health commissioners with the aim of increasing participation in sport and activity.

"I am delighted to become a Parliamentary Sport Champion and offer my support to this important campaign. Obesity is a growing problem both nationally and locally."

Council staff warned over £5.5m cards bill

THE leader of Dudley Council written to employees about purchases on credit cards after an investigation found they spent £5.5 million within 12 months on plastic.

Among the things bought by council staff were flights to attend award shows in Edinburgh and fast food from KFC.

by Andrew Turton

Councillor David Sparks said he was surprised by the figures and demanded the circumstances were double checked. But he reiterated the use of the cards were made during the course of the 'normal business of the council'.

The council paid more than £417 flying three of its staff to Edinburgh for an awards ceremony.

The return flights to the Edge Innovation Awards were considered the most economic way because at the time the return train fares were around £200 per person.

It has also funded 147 transactions at KFC or McDonald's, which council bosses say may have been for children.

Councillor Sparks said the food bought for children would be reconsidered after the authority launched a five-year plan to tackle obesity in the borough.

Figures show 21 per cent of people are obese in Dudley. The authority was the biggest spender out of the region's councils, with £5.5m from 2011 to 2012 paid on 862 corporate purchase cards distributed throughout its workforce.

Staff made 50,407 transactions in 12 months, including meals in top restaurants and nights in hotels around the country.

Councillor Sparks said: "I have written to all members of the council. I want to point out that we do not have corporate credit cards.

"There are some references in there to expenditure that does not look right as far as I'm conserned and I've asked for that to be double checked. The cards are used for the normal business of the council."

He said he will also query why £321.15 was paid at the upmarket Tree Hotel in High Wycombe, as he says he 'stays in a Travelodge' when on business.

Payments including £885 at Halesowen Golf Club and £102 at Himley House will be reviewed, he added.

Fitness tutor's medal knees-up

Fitness teacher Jean Hughes with class members at a celebration garden party

JEAN Hughes has devoted decades to help women keep fit by running a hundreds of exercise classes. Her efforts have helped make friendships which will last a lifetime for generations who have taken part.

Now the 77-year-old has celebrated being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours with a regal garden party. Her friends decided to host it for Mrs Hughes after realising they would not all be able to attend Buckingham Palace to see her receive her honour.

Class member Pamela Barnsley, aged 69, hosted the royal themed garden party with around 80 delighted women attending the event last week, in Kingswinford. She even dressed up as the Queen complete with a themed mask to present Mrs Hughes with a pretend medal in commemoration.

The woman, who range in age from their 40s to 90s, also enjoyed posh food and champagne served up in a marquee.

Mrs Hughes was awarded the medal for services to the community through keep fit and her contribution to charity . She will receive it in the coming months.

She has raised more than £115,000 for good causes by staging events and holding raffles. Midlands Air Ambulance, Russells Hall Hospital and breast cancer charities have all benefited over the years.

The mother of one has been running exercise classes in Wordsley and the surrounding area for 41 years. She still runs three classes a week which help teach a range of fitness techniques.

Wonderful

"We are all like sisters really. It was a wonderful day and it was so nice to everybody," said Mrs Hughes, who lives with husband of 56 years, Ray, in Kingswinford .

"The award it wonderful but I did not accept it for me. I accepted it for my group because without them I wouldn't be doing all this. One of the best parts of it all has been the friendships that we have made over the years."

Road closed during arrest

PART of a main road in Lye was closed after reports of a man acting suspiciously on a petrol station forecourt.

Pedmore Road at the BP petrol station, closed for an hour from 5.30pm last Thursday. A man was arrested and the petrol station was evacuated.

Eyewitness Foz Miah, of the Balti Bazaar restaurant, said: "A guy on the forecourt was holding the petrol pump and said he was going to blow it up." Police said there was 'some concern' the man had a lighter.

Bandage aid for hospital

STAFF and customers at Sainsbury's stores in Amblecote and Merryhill have raised £320 for Birmingham Children Hospital's Big Bandage Campaign. Colleagues at the two stores wore bandages and asked customers to donate money to the cause, which helps improve the facilities and environment for children who are treated at the hospital every year. Stourbridge MP Margot James also visited the Amblecote store for a surgery session and leant her support to the campaign.

Summer break

HAGLEY Wives and Women's Fellowship will return from its summer break for an opening service for the new season on September 10. The event, at 8pm at St Saviour's Church, Hagley, will be followed by the announcement of a new programme of activities.

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Selection of candidate 'by the book'

LABOUR has picked its candidate to try to win a battleground seat in Dudley amid controversy over union backing.

Natasha Millward was one of 41 candidates nationally named in a leaked report as being favoured by the Unite trade union.

Campaigners have defend -ed union support as being nothing new but a row continues over Unite's influence on the Labour party amid allegations it tried to rig the selection in Falkirk.

The Tories have accused Unite and its general secretary Len McCluskey of trying to 'fix' the selections of the 41 candidates, including four in the Black Country.

One of those saw 35-year-old Miss Millward become Labour's candidate in Dudley South, held by Tory Chris Kelly since 2010.

Labour imposed an all-woman shortlist because it wants to increase the number of female MPs. It said the vote was taken in the usual way, with party members allowed to rank candidates in order of preference.

Miss Millward defeated two Dudley councillors – Judy Foster and Rachel Harris – as well as mayoress of Wolverhampton Jasbir Jaspal to be selected.

She said while she was named as Unite's favoured candidate, her selection was 'fully by the book'.

Charity plea to therapists

A DUDLEY cancer support group is appealing for volunteer therapists to treatpatients and carers.

White House Cancer Support has 11 therapists who give people with cancer, and their carers, complementary therapy. Patients and their carers can receive up to 12 free sessions of therapy.

Any therapist able to volunteer should call Helen Lees, group and records officer for White House, on

Article coup for childcare student

A HALESOWEN College student has had an article about how to make childcare affordable published in a specialist magazine. James Boddey, who is studying for a foundation degree in early years, is manager of a childcare centre.

The 25-year-old wants to make care more affordable and flexible. Course leader Angela Hodgkins said: "I am extremely proud of James."

Megan has her designs on art director's role

Megan happy to get her hands dirty as art director

A BUDDING designer from Dudley has won the chance to work alongside chart-topping pop duo Rizzle Kicks.

Megan Adams, aged 21, beat thousands of hopefuls to land her place on the set of the music video for the band's new single, Lost Generation.

She has bagged the role of art director and, working with a professional mentor, she will be responsible for the overall 'look' of the production.

The Falmouth University student, of Cotwall End Road, Sedgley, said: "It's a tough industry to break into, so to get the call telling me I'd got the job was amazing.

"I'm really looking forward to getting stuck in on-set. Working with Rizzle Kicks and the art director, Ruth Crawford, will be an exciting learning curve.

"This experience will really help me to find my path for when university is over, as well as giving me the opportunity allow me to meet new people in the business with the same passion as me."

Join

Megan, who studies interior design, won the opportunity after the band teamed up with GoThinkBig, a work experience initiative launched by O2 and Bauer Media to help people aged between 16 and 24 from across the country. She will join a team of 32 other recruits working on the video, which will mirror today's reality television shows, mentored by a professional production cast.

Other positions that up for grabs included everything from runners, stage hands, make-up artists, cast members and camera crews, to directors, producers and editors.

Jordan Stephens, of Rizzle Kicks, said: "We want to give kids the kind of break we got.

"There are so many talented young people across the UK who all too often don't get the chance to prove themselves in a real work environment."

Patients group pledges to help improve Russells Hall

A NEWLY-FORMED health patients' group says it will play an important role in helping turn around Russells Hall Hospital.

It has been told to make urgent improvements in the wake of a critical Government report which found failings in staff levels and the complaints procedure.

by Alex Ross

The investigation by NHS medical director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh was launched because of reported high death rates at the hospital, managed by Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The hospital was not placed in special measures unlike 11 other hospitals looked at, but it has been given an action plan of improvements and warned it will be revisited for an inspection in the autumn.

The independent patients' group Healthwatch Dudley said it would be working with the hospital to help it meet the wanted standards.

The group is funded from central government to represent users of health and social care in Dudley on such boards as the borough's Health and Well Being Board.

It has powers to report unsolved issues to the Care Quality Commission and to Healthwatch England, a national patients' group.

Spokeswoman Melissa Guest said: "As local consumer champion for health and social care, it is clear Healthwatch Dudley has a very important role to play

"In the coming months we will be listening to the experiences of patients, their families and carers, to ensure that their views are fully taken into account.

"We are committed to representing the views of local people and are pleased that we have been invited to work with Russells Hall Hospital, to support everyone on this challenging journey."

She added: "The hospital needs to make improvements, but it also needs to hear from its patients if it wants to succeed.

"The complaints procedure is one area the patients can have a direct involvement in helping to improve – they tell us what is right and wrong and we can pass that information on to the relevant people."

To contact the group call 03000 111 001.

Kit donated to slum teams

FOOTBALL kit donated by a junior club based in Wall Heath has been handed over to youngsters in Kenya. Kewford Eagles members gave the kit and footballs to the RAF's Taking Football to Africa and Beyond appeal. The kit was handed out at the Kibagare Good News centre in Kibagare slum in Nairobi; the Woodard Langalanga School in Gilgil, and Kibera Celtic FCin Kibera slum in Nairobi. Charity trustee and vice chairman of Kewford, Lynn Boleyn said "We are really glad to be able to help ."

Bully's hits goal for £3,000 baby boost

Steve Bull with ward sister Julie Taylor, radiologist Dr Kambiz Maleki, and consultant Dr Subramanian Mahadevan

A HOSPITAL charity raising money for premature and sick babies has received a major funding boost from England and Wolves legend Steve Bull.

Steve strolled into Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, to present a cheque for £3,000 to the charity for the hospital's neonatal unit.

The donation came following an appeal by his charity, the Steve Bull Foundation, with the cash being raised at a golf day held at Worfield Golf Club. The money will be used to buy a bilibed, which is used to treat babies with newborn jaundice. The Wolves star said: "I am delighted my charity has been able to support such a worthwhile cause, and thank you to everyone who attended our golf day whose generosity enabled us to buy the much needed equipment for the Neonatal Unit."

Karen Phillips, charity fundraising manager, added: "We are so grateful to the Steve Bull Foundation for this generous donation which will purchase a bilibed for the Neonatal Unit. The phototherapy unit allows a baby suffering with jaundice to be treated in their own cot rather than being restricted to an incubator."

The foundation provides grants to Black Country and West Midlands organisations to help their work to aid young people, the disabled, the homeless, the sick and the disadvantaged.

NEWS in brief

Benches may go to deter gangs

PROBLEMS with drunken anti-social behaviour is on the rise in Lower Gornal as gangs congregate during the afternoon and evening, it is claimed.

Large groups are gathering around benches in Abbey Road, ntimidating shoppers and causing a nuisance for traders.

The situation has got so bad councillors are considering removing the benches to try and tackle the problem. Plans have also been put forward to restore a CCTV camera which was removed after suffering damage. Councillor Tim Wright said it was desperately needed.

New store will create 150 jobs

UP to 150 jobs are being created at Merry Hill with the opening of The Range homeware shop on September 20. It is now recruiting for part-time and full-time jobs.

The Range sells value-priced products ranging from homeware, DIY and garden furniture to arts and crafts, sofas, beds and toys. The branch will be the chain's 77 store. Founder Chris Dawson said: "Dudley is the perfect location for us."

Store brand is boost to charity

A SHOP in Dudley is donating the profits from the sale of a food brand in its store to a cancer support charity in the borough.

White House Cancer Support has so far received £500 thanks to Nisa Local Store, Nith Place. Owners Sam and Dal Rai launched the partnership after the charity was picked as one of the Dudley Mayor Alan Finch's for of the year.

White House manager Chris Barron said 'We are very grateful for support of the Nisa Local Store."

Pupils fashion their own catwalk

PUPILS from Halesowen's Earls High School organised their own fashion catwalk show as they had the chance to experience student life at Halesowen College.

Fifteen went for a fashion and print workshop, where they designed their own T-shirts and then modelled them.

Foot care back

AGE UK Dudley has relaunched foot care services at its base in Mill Street, Brierley Hill, Monday to Friday. Call 01384 267009 for appointments.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

WORRYINGLY, for a second week running, I again find myself in agreement with a member of the political classes.

Dudley councillor Patrick Harley says he will lift all car parking charges if his party regains control at next year's elections. Of course the key word is 'if', and it is easy to make bold promises from the luxury of the opposition benches.

At least he has grasped the problem, which most other councillors in the West Midlands, seem unwilling to accept.

There is little point in spending millions of pounds on glossy new schemes to attract people into our towns if you are then going to make them feel unwelcome the moment they arrive. Whoever invented the pay and display meter has a lot to answer for.

It is not just the cost, or even the inconvenience of being expected to carry a pocketful of small change around. More than that, it is the sheer officiousness of it all.

The pompous signs warning of dire penalties, the officials dressed like the Red Army poised with their sinister hand-held devices, waiting to pounce on anybody who dares to transgress.

If councils had any sense, they would be rolling out the red carpet for anybody choosing to spend money in our ailing town centres.

And realise that a pay-and-display meter on a publicly owned car park presents about as warm a welcome as a punch in the throat.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

LOVED the story about the mother and daughter who were turned away from a McDonald's drive-through because they arrived on horseback.

Undeterred, the mother took her beast into the seating area (the horse, not the daughter), where it left a rather unpleasant gratuity on the restaurant floor.

Why they were turned away is not explained. Smacks of a hate-crime to me, equinaphobia or something. Still, they should be grateful it was MacDonald's, and not one of those dreadful, less reputable burger outlets.

They would probably have thought it was a meat delivery.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

CONGRATULATIONS to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the birth of their new son. And as the nation shares in their joy, conversation turns to the choice of name.

Much has been made of the young Duchess's unremarkable, middle-class background, and the couple's ability to connect with modern Britain. Even so, a Prince Wayne or Keanu might still be a step to far.

Besides, celebrity names are all a bit old hat. If the happy couple want a name that truly reflects 21st century Britain, maybe it is time to consider a bit of corporate sponsorship.

HRH Prince of Cambridge, Brought To You In Association With J D Sports. Has a rather nice ring to it, don't you think?

Cradley Heath Baptist Church which has had extensive work

The restored steeple

The church's interior where the roof has been made secure

Helping glory return to Georgian church

Specialists were called in to fight the ravages of frost and wood rot, as **NAOMI DUNNING** found out

A £200,000 restoration project on an historic church has now been completed.

This first phase of the restoration work on Grade II-listed Cradley Heath Baptist Church saw specialist builders and stonemasons undertake the delicate project to restore the historic building.

The 180-year-old church in Corngreaves Road was awarded a £97,000 grant from English Heritage to carry out the vital works.

Church bosses then worked hard to secure the rest of the funding through grants and fundraising projects to get the work done.

This first phase saw extensive work on the roof particularly on the west elevation and tower in a bid to make it water tight and secure.

Specialists

They also undertook extensive repointing and the original embedded iron reinforcements have been replaced with stainless steel supports.

The terracotta detailing on the building was also badly frost-damaged, and bosses at the church recruited specialists from Blackburn to restore and replace the damaged detailing.

The specialists recreated exact replicas of two large terracotta urns which are placed on a prominent site at the church.

Internally the floor on the south side had extensive wood rot, which had to be replaced.

Project manager Gordon Roberts says: "We had to replace 20 square metres worth of flooring. The workman actually had to prop up the organ which weighs around two tonnes and work underneath.

"The floor damage was worse than expected so it cost us a bit more to get done."

The workmen also replaced the roof truss on the north side of the building.

Mr Roberts says: "All the high level repairs have now been completed so the building is water tight. I started working on this in 2009, so it is fantastic to see this stage completed. I think the workman have done a brilliant job, and all the work and detailing is as true to the original as much as possible."

Selected

Church bosses applied to English Heritage for the grant in 2011 and initially received £15,000 to start the development work. Specialist teams of architects and designers assessed the building, and worked out the best way to restore it so it will last for generations to come.

Heritage bosses said the Georgian church was selected because of its outstanding historical significance.

This is just the first phase of the work and Mr Roberts is now looking to fundraise for the second phase which will see the inside of the church restored and redecorated.

Project manager Gordon Roberts looks how the restoration of the Cradley Heath Baptist Church progressed

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON teenager escaped with a gashed head after plunging more than 60ft down a Welsh mountainside. Stuart Edwards, from Tettenhall, tripped on loose rocks and fell down a sheer drop during a school trip.

FORMER champion motor cyclist Pip Harris won a bottle of champagne – and decided to build a boat to go with it. Mr Harris spent 10 years building the 40ft sailing yacht in the back garden of his Wombourne home.

PENSIONERS in Wolverhampton were given an offer of cut-price food – school meals at 22p. The scheme made use of surplus food from school kitchens, caused by drop in pupil numbers.

1993...

WOLVERHAMPTON'S longest-serving headmaster said goodbye to his pupils and staff when he retired from the Northicote School in Bushbury. Michael Davies, aged 63, had been head of the school for 24 years.

WALSALL-by-the-sea was the image being promoted by organisers of the town's annual illuminations – even though the nearest beach is 100 miles away. A package of seaside-style entertainment was launched to persuade locals that they don't have to travel to the coast for bright lights and pier-type shows.

WOLVERHAMPTON pools collector Sean Sarsfield hit the jackpot himself – netting £210,000 from a £1.50 stake. The 41-year-old from Bushbury scooped top prize in a national spot-the-ball competition.

2003...

FOOTBALL fans in Wolverhampton faced a blackout after pubs switched off live football because of an increase in Sky Sports subscription charges. At least 12 pubs in the region decided not to show the new football season due to price increases of up to 22 per cent.

A PANTOMIME group from the Black Country raised money to help autistic children after performing a classic fairytale. The Stourbridge Pantomime Company performed Pinocchio to raise funds to build a residential unit at Sunfield School in Clent.

A 75-YEAR-OLD former accountant from Tettenhall broke two British athletics records at the 15th World Masters Championships in Puerto Rico. Sprightly Alan Meddings proved that he's the fastest pensioner in the world by winning the 100m and 200m events.

LETTERS

Farmers' market needs your support

IN response to R.Blackwood's letter (July 11) I would like to add my own points about the twice monthly market in Halesowen. Firstly, I suspect that the Saturday they were talking about was actually the fifth one of the month when an additonal market is allowed.

However, some farmers already have other commitments and are unable to attend, hence the fact there were only two stalls. There are more farmers on the second and fourth Saturdays.

Secondly, the market has, for several years, been a farmers' and craft market, with a limited number of general stalls permitted since last year, as per the licence agreement. While some charity shops may stock some similar items, there are products in the market that cannot be found in these shops. Naturally, the quality of goods will vary, as they do in retail shops. Stallholders pride themselves on giving good, friendly service in all weathers.

Many of the town's retailers have openly stated they welcome the market, as it brings additional visitors on those days, which increases their own sales. Market traders, in turn, spend money with retailers while they are there. But vital to all this, is the support of customers. Unfortunately, the market has just lost the Snoggable Garlic stall due to poor sales, despite the excellent quality of their product.

So, a plea. If Halesowen residents of (which we are) wish to have a vibrant and varied market then traders need your support. Please come and take a look at our stalls, say hello and ask questions about what we sell, we are a friendly bunch!

Without our customers' support, not only will the farmers have gone but also the whole market altogether.

PAULINE SIMPSON AND TRISH WINDSOR
Cherry Tree Lane, Halesowen

The Heathens need backing from council

I COULD not agree more with the comments made by Mike Thompson, who, although living in our neighbouring borough, has the interests of Dudley to heart.

Our council continues to award nothing but failure and I agree with another writer, does little to deter the offenders of dog mess.

It is an absolute disgrace that desspite many years of promises and millions of our pounds spent, we have so little regeneration. Even a 3,000-name petition supplied by me has not protected our medieval market place. Double yellow lines have increased and there is an absence of free parking in our run-down town. Our streets are littered with failed black bag collections.

One of the few successes was our beloved Heathens speedway. They bought people from all over the UK and have been treated with utter contempt. Land by the old Freightliner site is an ideal place to house the speedway.

MALCOLM DAVIS
Cromwell Drive
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Double standards on protecting our parks

I READ in awe that Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, has won lottery cash towards a long-awaited revamp and that the main 'listed' park gates will also be spruced up.

I was also intrigued to read that Dudley Council is committed to maintaining our valuable parks and green spaces. We ourselves, members of The Friends of Homer Hill Park, Cradley, can only watch as our small park is being destroyed by developers with the full consent and help of the very same council which itself is trying to tell us it will be an improvement and beneficial to our park.

Since when has a park track being turned into an access road to a housing development, which in turn cuts the park in half, been an improvement or benefit to any park, green space or its users?

When it comes to the park gates, I suppose being listed does help as one of the main sets of our park gates which fronted the park have been taken down as part of this development and have unfortunately disappeared.

After inquiries no one seems to know what has happened to them. It seems to me that Dudley Council has two sets of standards when it comes to its self-confessed commitment to the local parks and green spaces.

MARY WHITEHOUSE, Butchers Lane, Cradley

A welcome for new bins

I HAVE been writing to Dudley Council since I moved to Kingswinford 20 years ago as it has been more than two decades behind other councils re-garding bins!

When you have a family it is a nightmare trying to store rubbish until your collection day. With a massive problem of cats, rats and foxes ripping open bin bags and waking up to rubbish all over your garden every Wednesday morning wheeling a bin in and out will be welcomed with open arms from our family!

MRS V GRIFFITHS
Kingswinford

Many thanks

I WOULD like to thank the very kind people who stopped to help my daughter and her boyfriend at the motorway island in Walsall recently when some idiot decided to go straight over a red light and straight into the side of them.

I still have some faith in human kindness. Thanks again.

COLETTE HAVINS
Coseley

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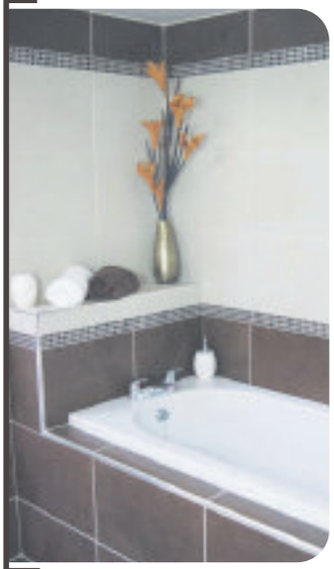

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NEWS

Dancers line up to bring in vital cash

Judy Evans, 69, of Bilston, with Michael King, 64, of Dudley, with teacher Jacqueline Faulkner, 44, of Willenhall

A LINE-DANCING group hopes to raise money for a cancer charity when it stages an event in Coseley. Jazzbox Jacq will show off its skills at Woodcross Social Club, in Woodcross Lane, tomorrow (Friday) starting at 8pm.

Cash raised will be donated to MacMillan Cancer Support with members of the group hoping more than 50 people will attend. Plans for the event were made after member Judy Evans said she did not want a traditional party to celebrate her 70th birthday but wanted to do something different.

So the group decided to stage the event instead and bring in the cash for a good cause. Mrs Evans will also be celebrating her golden wedding anniversary.

The group has been running for six years and meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at the club. Jacqueline Faulkner, who runs the group, said they were all looking forward to the event. She can be contacted on 07786 929498.

Final £2.6m won for market

THE final £2.6 million grant has been secured to make the transformation of Dudley's historic market a reality.

Work will get under way in the new year at Dudley Market after the last slice of funding was won from the European Regional Development Fund, and tops up the required £6.7 million needed for the scheme.

The revamp, which was approved by Dudley Council last month, will feature a newly-designed market, new paving, feature lighting and .the repositioning of the Duncan Edwards statue to the other side of the market, at the New Street end.

An ageing toilet block will be replaced by a public toilet at the former Walmsley's furniture store in Castle Street.

Traders had voiced concernsand recently submitted alternative plans to councillors. But members of the cabinet agreed to press ahead in order to secure the European funding for the latest round of grant applications.

Council leader Councillor David Sparks said: "This investment will reap rewards for Dudley town centre as it is all part our plans to transform the retail offer in the town. High-quality street design such as this is a well proven way of creating economic benefits."

Dudley regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "This work will inject new life into the market place."

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NEWS

Firm lifted by precision project for £1.5m crane

A KINGSWINFORD engineering firm celebrated a major milestone after completing work on a £1.5 million project to build a steel structure for a nuclear crane.

TM Engineers, Oak Lane, took two years to build the crane which will be used to remove dangerous nuclear fuel rods from Royal Navy submarines.

The 40ft crane weighs almost 60 tonnes and features five sections, including a fixed bridge beam supported by two sets of legs.

Workers clocked up more than 8,000 hours of welding on the structure.

The quality requirements were so high that each weld had to be inspected by engineers from MoD contractors Babcock International Group.

John Perch, of Brierley Hill, who has worked for the firm as a welder for the past five years, said: "The level of skill required for this job was very high.

Significant

"As welders we were tested to our limits because even a gap the size of a pin hole would be classed as a defect and the piece would have to be scrapped."

Managing director Robert Holland said: "This was a significant job for the company, involving around 50 staff - everyone from the office to the shop floor.

"The specifications we were given were very precise, and the crane will be inspected every five years to make sure there is no deterioration in quality or capability. "It is a unique structure, and as a firm we are very proud to have been involved in the project."

The decommissioning process can take up to 12 months and is necessary because the MoD is replacing 12 of the navy's current submarine fleet.

Mr Holland added: "Without the skill and dedication of our workforce the job would never have been completed."

Next month the crane will be dismantled and transported to the Devonport Royal Dockyard, Plymouth, where it will be reassembled on a dry dock before be positioning underneath a reactor access house (RAH) which moves around the dry dock on a set of rails.

The entire structure weighs more than 600 tonnes.

Managing director Robert Holland, centre right, and sales manager Richard Holland, centre left, flanked by welders John Peach, left, and Andy Plant in front of the RAH crane built in Kingswinford

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NEWS

Train trip of memories

FORMER classmates from Dudley Girls High School climbed aboard a vintage steam train for a trip down Memory Lane at a 60th anniversary reunion.

The seven-strong group, who started at the school on September 15, 1953, gathered at Kidderminster's Severn Valley Railway for the landmark celebration.

And they reminisced over old times looking though old photographs and even a school register from their first day at the school, which stood in Priory Road until its demolition in 1996.

The group wanted to do something different to mark 60 years since starting at the school and decided on a trip along the railway.

They also enjoyed lunch in Highley before taking a trip to Bridgnorth.

The group said it had been a wonderful occasion to reminisce over old times.

All of the group were in the same form at the school and the majority left in 1958.

Contact

Although many stayed in touch, contact was lost with others until the demolition of the school in 1996 brought them back together.

Valerie Wyatt, formerly Hadley, 71, of Stockport, said: "When the announcement was made the school would be torn down former pupils were invited along to have a last look around.

"Some of us had kept in contact with each other but we had lost touch with others. Although it was a sad occasion it brought us all back together.

"This was then strengthened by reunions held afterwards and we now try to meet whenever we can.

"It is always wonderful to meet up and talk over old times. "This reunion is obviously very special as it marks the 60th anniversary of us starting at the school."

Front from left Margaret Tait, Carol Bourton, Hazel Leach, Val Wyatt, back from left, Viv Summers, Pat Halford, and Margaret Harris

The seven girls back on a school trip in 1958 were classmates and met during their days at Dudley Girls High School and have remained friends

Viv Summers, nee Greaves, 71, of Sedgley, said favourite lessons had included modern dance which had been very new to the curriculum at the time.

And the group fondly remembered a trip to Bruges in 1958 which was the first time they had been overseas.

Mrs Summers said: "Unfortunately as the pictures show even though we were overseas we still had to wear our school uniform. That wouldn't happen now. Children would be able to wear their casual clothes."

Margaret Harris, 71, of Stourbridge, said she believed the entire trip had cost around £18 – and there had still been some change left.

Margaret Tait, formerly Nettleton, 70, of Wombourne, said: "We always like getting together when we can."

Last year the group, which also includes Carol Bourton, nee Hemmings, Hazel Leach, nee Morton and Pat Halford, nee Jones, were invited to attend a dinner at the House of Commons.

It was organised by Baroness Jenny Tonge, a former doctor and Liberal Democrat MP for Richmond Park who also attended Dudley Girls' School.

The high shool served the community for 65 years until it became the Dudley School following a merger in 1975.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices , believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

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"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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NEWS

Homes plan will bring vacant site back to life

A LONG-DISUSED factory site in Brierley is to be brought back to life after plans to build nearly 100 homes were approved.

Proposals for 96 houses on the land at Delph Road received unanimous approval from Dudley Council's development control committee last week.

A factory building will be demolished and the site will be split between 18 two-bedroom flats, 56 two and three-bedroom houses and 22 four and five-bedroom properties.

Developer Orchard Park Properties Ltd submitted the scheme to breathe new life into the site which has lain empty for more than a decade.

It was previously home to several manufacturers.

Committee member councillor Tim Wright said he was pleased the site was finally being developed.

"I can remember taking a look at this site for a proposed development back in 2008 which came to nothing," he said. "I sincerely hope we will actually see building work taking place at the site soon."

by Lee Watton

Fellow committee member councillor John Martin agreed: "I can only echo what Councillor Wright has said. This site has been empty for a number of years and it is great something is now going to happen."

Plans for a footway as part of the development from Anchor Hill to Delph Road had been abandoned.

MP chosen to lead group

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has been chosen to lead the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health to champion mental health causes in Parliament. He is working ways to improve the way people with mental health issues are treated by government bodies.

Animal lover takes up cause of caged bear

Jane Gwilliam has organised a charity night to raise money to rescue a caged bear in Ukraine

A WALL HEATH sales assistant has organised a charity night to raise cash to rescue a caged bear in Ukraine. Animal lover Jane Gwilliam, aged 49 of Foundry Road, has set up the fundraiser at the Prince Albert Pub, High Street.

It will be held at 8pm tomorrow (Friday) to raise money for the project by charity Four Paws. The charity needs money to rescue a bear called Masha,which it claims is being kept by a group of dog breeders who use it as bait.

It wants to take the bear to a sanctuary in the Ukraine where it can receive help. Mrs Gwilliam, who works at Debenhams at Merry Hill Shopping Centre, organised the fundraiser after reading about the bear's circumstances on social networking site Facebook.

Appealing

She said: "I have always been a big animal lover and it broke my heart when I read about Masha on Facebook. I just knew I had to do something to help and that is why I am organising this fundraiser.

"I hope as many people as possible will come along and get behind this cause. I am now appealing to local businesses to donate prizes for an auction and a raffle."

Prizes on offer include a hamper from the Co-Op and meal vouchers for local restaurants. Entry is free and there will be rock music, food and drink. For more information or to donate call Mrs Gwiliam on 07581455418.

ADVERTISEMENT

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) (GDC108353) with Denture Clinic manager Peter Brookes (GDC124429)

Denture troubles? Unable to live life spontaneously?

Your smile is priceless

THERE'S seemingly an impossible amalgamation between glamour and dentures, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are increasingly being thrown together at a ground-breaking Dudley clinic.

Under the watchful eye of denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), founder of the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, hi-spec prescriptions are helping turn back the hands of time.

Recently, the practice has undergone a major refurbishment, with three disciples – general dentistry (North Street Dental), implantology (Total Implant Solutions) and the prescribing and manufacturing of dentures (Denture Clinic) all under one roof.

Key to a £1m investment are two new ground-floor surgeries, an level main entrance at the rear, disabled-friendly facilities and a large car park with a drop-off point right outside the reception area. A champion for those who wear dentures, Steven has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth."

He is evangelical about what new generation dentures can achieve.

"Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes.

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

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THE WAY I SEE IT

Transparency and decisive action to restore NHS trust

Dudley South Conservative MP Chris Kelly takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views

"Excess mortality rates were accounted for centrally rather than locally meaning that there weren't any financial consequences for unacceptably poor quality of care."

IN Westminster I attended the Kidz Unlimited Awards to congratulate the Dudley Whizz-Kidz Ambassadors Club, who I recently met at Woodside Community Centre, on their award.

It was great to be able to welcome such wonderful, determined young people to Parliament.

I joined Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to proudly hoist the Black Country flag above Whitehall. I'd like to see more of them flying locally in the Black Country.

In the Commons I expressed my concern that compensation payments awarded to victims of poor care or their families at the 14 Trusts, including Dudley Group, reviewed by Professor Sir Bruce Keogh for having excess mortality rates were accounted for centrally by the NHS rather than locally meaning that there weren't any financial consequences for unacceptably poor quality of care and weak leadership. Thankfully this changed soon after the last election.

Honesty

It must be hard for the Health Secretary to admit that things went wrong in the past but Jeremy Hunt is determined to see poor care rooted out.

Transparency is disinfectant. Only with complete transparency and honesty about problems, followed by decisiveness in sorting them out, can we restore trust in our NHS in Dudley and across the country

I was pleased to open the new Post Office at the Sainsbury's end of the Merry Hill Centre and wish Nick Singh and his team all the best for the future. The longer opening hours for Post Office services — made possible by being part of a Londis store — will be a real help to shoppers and local small businesses.

I went to Redbrick Court Care Home, Wordsley, to visit residents and their families. The home recently transitioned from the Southern Cross to HC-One Limited without any disruption to residents.

In a major sign of how this government is rewarding work the benefits cap has now come into effect. Benefits have been capped so that no-one can claim more than the average family earns. Under Labour benefits were limitless, not capped. Under Labour households were able to receive up to £104,000 per year in Housing Benefit alone.

Labour opposed this fair cap on benefits, voting to maintain a something for nothing culture whereby some families who don't work were getting thousands of pounds more in welfare handouts than the average working family earns.

This government has taken bold action to make work pay, while protecting the vulnerable. Past governments have talked about reform, while watching the benefits bill sky rocket and generations languish on the dole and dependency. This government is delivering it. The introduction of our benefit cap finally marked the end of a culture that said a life on benefits was an acceptable alternative to work.

In Dudley, the average person would have to pay tax for 42 years to pay for one household to receive £104,000 in benefits a year, which could happen if Labour had their way.

This cap shows that Conservatives are the party of fairness, standing up for hardworking families and taxpayers. By voting against it, Labour showed they are the party of something for nothing.

Proud

In further positive news, the latest figures from the independent Office for National Statistics show that recorded crime in West Midlands fell by 12 per cent.

Officers in the West Midlands have clearly risen to the challenge in the fight against crime. People in Dudley and the Black Country can be proud of the hard work the police do to keep our communities safe.

Police reform is working and crime is falling. The Government has slashed red tape and scrapped targets so that the police can concentrate on fighting crime. Crime is down partly thanks to police reform, but it's also thanks to thousands of police officers and their chief constables who are proving you can cut crime even as you cut spending

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From here we cross the second of Scotland's grand rail bridges the 'Tay Bridge', which is over 2 miles in length affording passengers further spectacular views of Tayside and the 'Kingdom of Fife' at a fairly sedate speed. A break of up to around 2 hours is taken at Dundee. The station is handy for the main amenities. Dundee's most famous attraction is the research Ship 'Discovery', the very ship in which Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton sailed to Antarctica.

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Care group investment call as HQ auctioned

THE former Brierley Hill Labour Club, which has been transformed into a carers charity headquarters, is being auction today.

The building, which is now home to Insight for Carers, has an asking price of £170,000.

Charity bosses said the potential sale is not disrupting their work and maintain the centre will stay open.

Insight For Carers was established in January 2009 by Marc Carter, who is a carer himself and struggled to find the appropriate support he needed.

They have converted the former club building thanks to donations from business and support from volunteers creating a thriving centre.

The Pearson Street building is let to the charity until 2019 at an annual rent of £24,000. Mr Carter said he would welcome new investors to buy the site and work with the charity to further boost its work.

"The building has gone up for sale but the charity will not be affected as we have our lease agreement," he said.

"We would welcome a new landlord to buy the building and invest in it and work with us"

Welcome

Insight supports adult and young carers in Dudley borough through social gatherings, information workshops and practical advice on benefits.

The centre recently held a range of activities during National Carers Week. The venue also runs its own cafe called the Secret Coffee Club from the premises.

Volunteers recently took over The Phoenix Castle Mobile Toy Library which was due to close down imminently, two years after losing £23,000 of vital funding from Dudley Council.

But volunteers stepped in to run the service which loans out hundreds of games and toys to children with disabilities and special needs in Dudley borough each year.

Volunteers take toys out to families' homes in their own van, lending out the items for as long as they are needed.

The initiative has operated in part for around 40 years and is believed to be the oldest of its kind in the country.

The auction wass taking place in London.

Home of Insight for Carers, Brierley Hill

Borough bucks trend as jobless figure falls

JOB queues are getting shorter in Dudley borough, new figures have revealed.

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the borough fell by 312 to 9,657 last month.

The drop could be partly due to the jobs boom in neighbouring Sandwell, where the £200 million New Square shopping development has seen hundreds of people recruited for new stores including a Tesco Extra.

In neighbouring Kidderminster and Wyre Forest the claimant count was down by 112 to 2,138, while in South Staffordshire it fell by 58 to 1,555. The drop came despite a rise in overall unemployment in the West Midlands, which rose by 15,000 to 268,000.

Nationwide unemployment fell 57,000 to 2.51 million in the three months to May, the Office for National Statisics said. The national total for people claiming claiming the allowance fell 21,200 to 1.48m.

Furniture maker gives graduates seat at the table of employment

TWO graduates have secured jobs at a furniture manufacturer, thanks to a new scheme run in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton. Kingswinford-based Ultra Furniture Ltd has employed Charlotte-Ann Smith and Rachel Lane to boost its design and development department.

Charlotte-Ann Smith, front right, and Rachel Lane with, from left Sandra Simpson, Keen liaison officer, Robert Cooksey, senior lecturer in product design, Ultra Design directors Dennis Milligan and Glenn Aston

The firm, which manufacturers upholstered furniture for retailers, linked up with the university, which takes part in the Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise Network programme.

The scheme put firms in contact with graduates who can help them on new projects by bringing fresh ideas to the table.

Bosses are hoping to launch a new bespoke project range for the global furniture market in the coming days.

Ultra Furniture, which has existed since 1986, employs 242 full-time employees, at its site on Pensnett Trading Estate, off Stallings Lane.

Finance director and company secretary, Glenn Aston, said: "I am very impressed by the support provided throughout the recruitment process by the University of Wolverhampton.

"I thank, in particular, Robert Cooksey, senior lecturer in product design, and Sandra Simpson, KEEN liaison officer.

"Ultra Furniture is very pleased that Rachel Lane and Charlotte-Anne Smith are now part of the team."

Satisfaction

Rachel has experience in photography, marketing and advertising media and this attributes will be used to help Ultra Furniture market the of products.

She said: "The role has given me job satisfaction in an enjoyable working environment and, more importantly, job security and good terms of working practice. It's nice to know that British manufacturing still exists."

Charlotte-Anne, who recently graduated with a first in product design from the University of Wolverhampton, said: "Working as a designer at Ultra Furniture is an amazing opportunity for me to make a significant contribution to the furniture design industry."

"It will help me to develop myself into a strong member of the company using the great expertise and support of the directors and colleagues.

"I thoroughly enjoy working at Ultra Furniture and look forward to a long, successful career ahead."

Fun the park to welcome meadow

A MEADOW, which has been created atQuarry Bank park, will be at the centre of a community family event. Wildlife in the Wildflowers will take place at park, off Thorns Road, on July 30, and families are invited to join the fun.

Wardens from the nearby Saltwells Nature Reserve will lead a tour of the wildflower meadow from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Visitors are also invited to take a picnic and enjoy the surroundings of the park during the afternoon.

To join the walk, people should book a place and meet at the car park at the park. Call Saltwells wardens on 07920 235036 to book a place.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "Quarry Bank Park is a popular green space for residents in the local community.

"The addition of the meadow area is just part of a number of further developments at the park. The council countryside staff and the Friends of Quarry Bank Park are working closely together on these enhancements."

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Perfect match adds up to Bramford's exciting future

ON June 1, 2013 Bramford Primary School officially became an academy sponsored by the Griffin Schools Trust.

This followed a six-month relationship once the headteacher and governors decided to follow the academy route with Griffin.

The main difference the academy status brings to the school is it is now a state-funded independent school which is free from the local authority control.

Whereas Bramford and Griffin are keen to work with the local authority, the school is directly funded by and accountable to the Department for Education and is autonomous.

Griffin's approach to partnership with schools is based on the premise that schools belong to their communities and should be supported and challenged to become more of themselves and in turn provide an outstanding education for each school's individual community.

This approach fits perfectly with Bramford's vision for the future and working closely together the school will go from strength to strength. Since the school went into an Ofsted category Claire Williams was appointed as headteacher and has made rapid improvements within all areas of the school.

This year attainment at KS2 in Maths has been the best the school has ever seen with a percentage of children attaining a Level 6.

Parents have commented that the school will go the extra mile if there is a problem within the family unit, the school will support both child and parent. Parents have noticed improved communication and that Mrs Williams is "a breath of fresh air and very approachable".

Making it count . . . teacher Ms Handley and her maths set

In the most recent pupil conversations children commented they love the extracurricular activities, especially PGL, a residential summer camp Year 6 attend, and the Severn Valley Railway. "It is a great place to learn and grow," one Year Six child said.

Mrs Williams is excited for the future and is convinced that this is a perfect match.

Nick Watkiss, director of school improvement for Griffin School Trust, said he is delighted to be working with the children, parents, staff and the wider community.

He is in no doubt the school will thrive under the leadership of the headteacher and in partnership with Griffin Trust.

All pupils are challenged to reach new heights

Griffin schools educate our world citizens

THE Griffin Schools Trust is a family of primary and secondary schools in the Midlands and the South East of England.

We are committed to providing an outstanding education for all students, whatever their starting points, backgrounds and needs.

Trust heads lead communities focused on finding and nurturing talents so that children enjoy personal fulfillment as well as achieving their best in classroom.

Our schools educate world citizens, preparing them to make a difference wherever their futures may take them and offer staff a wide stage to use their talents and grow their careers across and beyond GST. Schools have histories and contexts and are rooted in local communities.

In recognition of and respect for this, the trust seeks to strengthen each school's individuality and to share ideas and expertise in a simple framework of Give and Get through which schools support, energise and inspire each other.

The trust has been created by people who have led high–performing schools in the UK, Europe and Asia.

Our collective expertise is demonstrated by track records of outstanding school improvement as heads, teachers, local authority advisers and Ofsted inspectors.

Our school experience spans the entire national and international spectrum: boarding and day, independent, academies and maintained, high attaining and highly challenged.

We also have extremely high quality professional support; our legal, governance and financial advisers have worked at very senior levels both in the UK and internationally.

Quality

We know there are no limits for students and staff where commitment and enjoyment go together.

We share a conviction that great schools are built on rich extra-curricular programmes and high quality pastoral care as well as an inspiring curriculum, expertly taught. The trust builds community and communality and promotes unity not uniformity.

Pupils will be known and supported as people, encouraged to explore and eperiment, challenged to learn the discipline of becoming expert as well as inspired to achieve personal best.

Bramford Primary School

Bramford Primary School is now an Academy, working together with the Griffin Schools Trust on a vision to take the school forward

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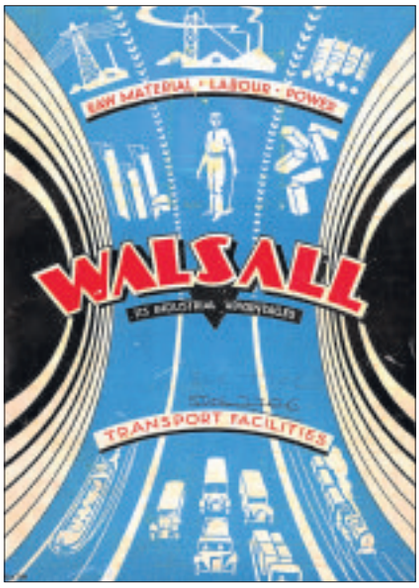
MEMORY LANE

An early 1920s view of part of The Bridge, Walsall, showing a Walsall Corporation Tram

Walsall Railway Station concourse in Park Street, 1920s

Walsall Market, High St and St Matthew's Church photographed in the early 1920s



This cover for the 1936 Walsall's Industrial Advantages handbook emphasises industry and manufacturing

Relics of proud industrial borough between the wars

by Stuart Williams

IN MY last Memory Lane feature, I wrote about the extensive photographic collections held at Walsall Local History Centre,

I specifically took the opportunity to showcase a few classic images of Walsall town which have not survived as original photographic images but can still be found in old books.

The photographs I reproduced for that Memory Lane were from that wonderful Victorian book The Walsall Album. I also mentioned the local Town Guides or Official Handbooks, variations on which were a particularly popular means of promoting towns and boroughs across the country during the first half of the 20th century.

They were a fine showcase for local civic pride, facilities and businesses.

The town council used these books as an opportunity to stress the advantages of Walsall as a place for people to live, sell, buy, do business and set up factories, etc.

Clearly this was very important then, as now, to provide employment for local people and increase the prosperity of residents, businesses and the corporation.

They also commissioned local professional photographers to provide pictures for these books, generating business for them too.

In the 1920s and 1930s, there were two series of such books, published annually, which are of particularly interest to anyone wanting to find out how local people lived, worked and were governed. These are the Walsall Official Handbooks of the early 1920s and 1930s and the even more business-focused Walsall's Industrial Advantages books of the mid to late 1930s.

Walsall Local History Centre has a few of both, passed down from the reference section of the old Walsall Free Library, now known as the Walsall Central Library.

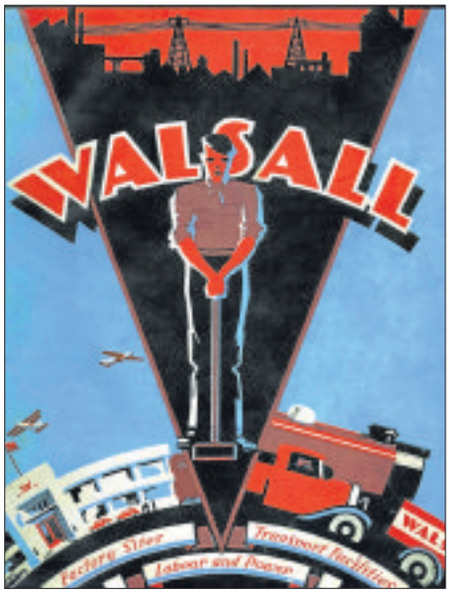
Some of these are as fascinating for their colourful and stylish Art Deco influenced cover artwork as they are for their photographs, adverts and informational content. Two covers as well as some town centre photographs are reproduced here for your interest.

Visit

There is far more in these books than can be shown here, so why not visit Walsall Local History Centre? You never know what you might discover.

Prints of pictures shown and thousands more are available to purchase by special order, as well as a wide range of books, from Walsall Local History Centre. For local and family history, drop into the centre in Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council. Telephone 01922 721305.

For more information online see www.walsall.gov.uk/local historycentre



The striking 1939 cover includes Walsall Aerodrome, open 1938

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Please get in touch on...

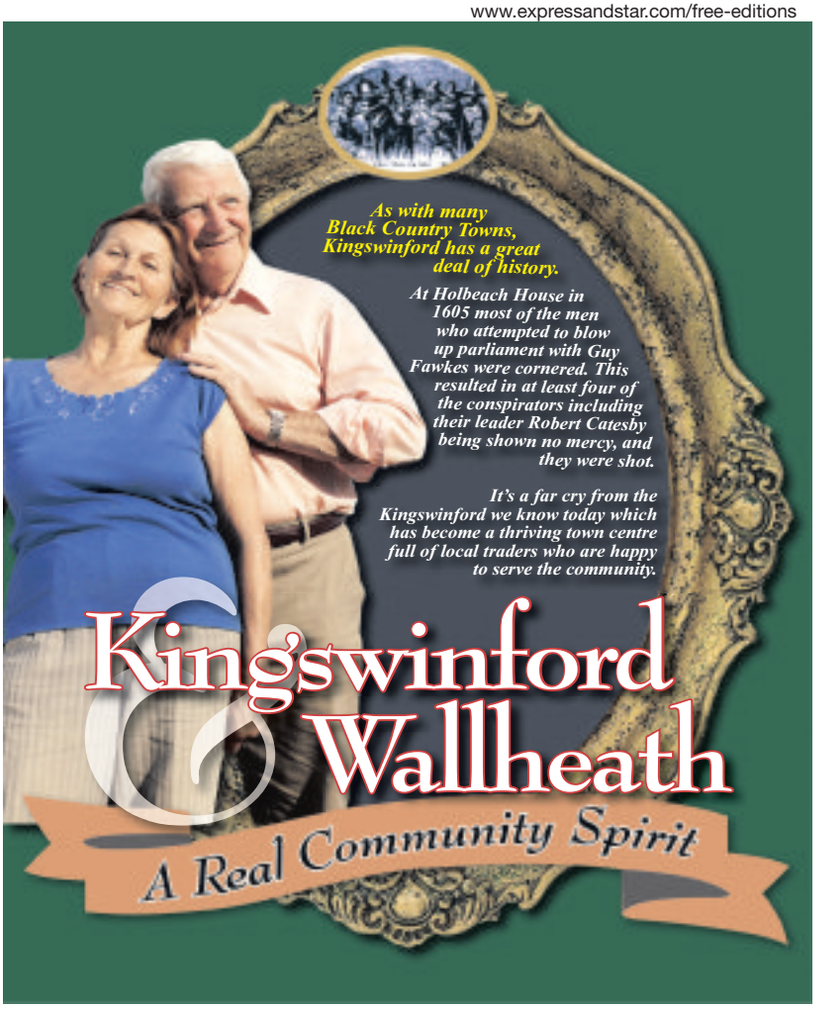
07738 510961

Helping Hands Wall Heath is a not for profit organisation supporting the local community. Over the past few months, we have given grants to provide musical instruments for two local schools. we've also given a grant to provide educational play equipment for local nurseries and we've helped with the funding for Himley Church for their necessary building repairs.

These are just a few of the projects that we've helped with but we've also helped the church of the Ascension in Wallheath, the United reform church in Wallheath and Access in Dudley.

All our work is funded by the kind donations that are brought into the shop. We are happy to support any charity of your choice on receipt of donations following a bereavement.

All our work has made a real difference to the area and we continue to take applications for help from all over the region so if you have a community minded project that we could help with, please get in touch.



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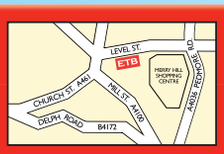

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CLUB NEWS

Trips take the place of meeting

CLENT GARDENING CLUB

THE club had two evening outings in June instead of its usual meeting.

The first was to Meadow Farm Garden & Nursery, which was a great success. The weather was good and there was a good turn out of members.

The second was to Preen Manor Gardens at Much Wenlock. The weather had been wet most of the day but as the evening approached the sun came out enabling everyone to enjoy the gardens. There was also a beautiful church in the gardens built in the 11th century which was worth the visit alone.

The next club meeting will be on July 28 at Clent parish hall, with a talk by Dr John Page entitled 'The Joys of English Gardens'

All are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in either joining or visiting can get further details on **clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com**/ or by calling chairman Pat Orme on 01384 394451.

September 7 is the 67th annual flower show in Clent parish hall. It will feature locally grown produce is judged by the WI, home made cakes for sale, a raffle, and a chance to enter your own home-grown produce.

There is also a section for children to enter. All entries must be in by 11am on the day.

Barbecue cash adds up to a sizzling £900

Wolverhampton Soroptimists president Parkash, Mike Colley and Mike Colley

WOLVERHAMPTON SOROPTIMISTS

ON June 30, the club hosted a barbecue in the garden of president Parkash's home.

Members and guests were joined by Mike Colley, President of Wolverhampton Rotary, plus committee members of the Wolverhampton Multiple Sclerosis Centre, including Peter and Cynthia Wright and Margaret King. Sponsors Gerald David and family of Minehead provided all the meat.

A buffet and bar were available for the 60-plus in attendance and there was a quiz.

Special thanks were given to all who had contributed, including those who had donated raffles prizes, helping to raise £900 for the president's special project – Wolverhampton Multiple Sclerosis Centre and other supported club projects.

The after dinner speaker in July was Haley Jay of Haley J Couture of Shrewsbury, one of Britain's leading bridal wear designers and creator of gowns.

She gave an inspirational talk of how from early beginnings, working from her grandparent's garage she had built a business with an international reputation. The vote of thanks was given by Mary Harris

Newcomers made welcome

DUDLEY WIDOWS & FRIENDS CIRCLE

DUDLEY Widows & Friends Circle meets every second Saturday in the month at 2.15pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Trinity Road, Dudley.

It is a small friendly group and has several events taking place during the year including meals out and Christmas lunch. Further details from 01902 881097 or 01902 676997.

Old and new members will be very welcome.

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What's On! Dudley

BLU-RAY REVIEWS

STUDIO Ghibli is the Japanese equivalent of Disney Studios when it comes to animated movies. They have been making beautifully animated films since the 1960s with the most famous probably being Spirited Away.

The difference with Ghibli, which may be as much cultural as to do with the creative individuals involved, is that their films are prone to much wilder flights of fancy, sometimes darker too, and humour takes a back seat to character and mood development. They are the connoisseur's cartoon.

Japanese

Two of their classics have made their Blu-Ray premieres, available individually or on double play, for the crispest visuals yet and in both dubbed English and Japanese with English subtitles versions.

Kiki's Delivery Service (U) is the delightful tale of teenage 0witch Kiki who uses her broomstick skills to set up a courier service with her sarcastic cat Jiji for company.

Grave of the Fireflies (12) is further proof that animation is more than just kids' stuff. One respected critic has listed it among the greatest war films ever made.

It is the moving story of a pair of siblings trying to survive in the ruins of devastated Second World War Japan.

Leon Burakowski

Magnum are still creative after more than 40 years

ROCK legends Magnum return home to the West Midlands tonight (Thursday) to headline at Bilston's Robin 2 venue.

by Andy Richardson

The line-up will feature Tony Clarkin on guitars, Bob Catley vocals, Mark Stanway keyboards, Al Barrow bass and Harry James on drums.

The progressive band were formed in Birmingham in 1972 by Clarkin and Catley, who survived numerous line-up changes.

Their biggest success was Chase The Dragon in 1982, which reached the top 20 album chart, and featured Soldier Of The Line, Sacred Hour and The Spirit.

Their success continued with the gold-selling On A Storyteller's Night in 1985, which featured Just Like An Arrow.

The band disbanded in 1995 so that Catley could form a new band but they reunited in 2001 and have since released six more albums.

Last year, they released their most recent, On The 13th Day, and they remain firm favourites of rockers around the UK.

Clarkin revealed in April that he had been in the studio working on and recording new songs, which are set for release in January 2014. The current working title is Escape From The Shadow Garden and it is scheduled for release next year.

Magnum show no signs of slowing down, after more than 40 years together.

Bob Catley said: "The older we get, the easier it becomes. It's a doddle. We've got it right at last; the right people in the band, the right production, the right songs, the right record company, the right fans, right everything. Magnum can go on for a long time."

"As soon as we get off tour Tony has a couple of days off and then he goes into his 'shed', his studio up his garden, and starts writing. Just ideas, playing for the love of creating something new.

"I'll probably hear something new again in about six months time, when he's got something to play me.

"When we go out we want to do new songs. We don't want to be a heritage band, that's not our style at all."

Star-crossed lovers at the Manor House

SHAKESPEARE comes to Sandwell this summer when The Festival Players give an outdoor performance of one of the Bard's best loved plays at the Tudor Manor House in West Bromwich.

Performances of Romeo and Juliet will take place in the grounds of the beautiful 13th century museum building in Hall Green Road, West Bromwich, a perfect backdrop to outdoor theatre.

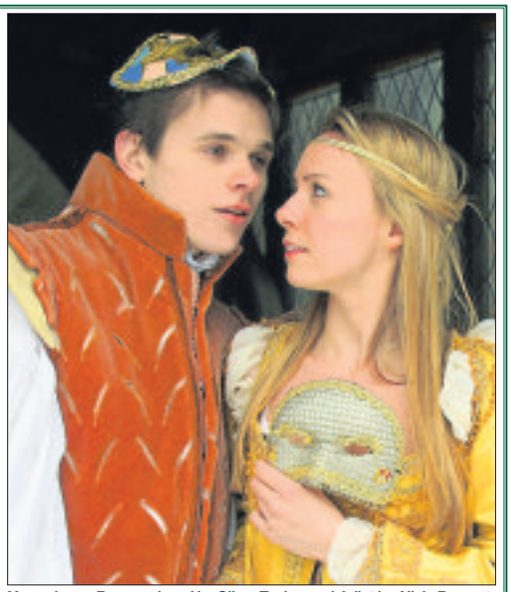
The performance is on Sunday, August 4, and gates will open at 4:15pm for people to bring a picnic. Then the performance begins at 5pm.

Visitors are asked to bring their own rugs or chairs to sit on, as well as their refreshments.

The classic story of young love blighted by warring families will be a popular choice. .

Tickets can be bought online from thefestivalplayers.co.uk or at the Manor House on Thursdays to Sunday afternoons. Tickets costs £12 for adults in advance (£14 at the gate) and concessions £10 (£12 at the gate).

If the weather is bad the performance will be moved indoors.



Young love – Romeo played by Oliver Tucker and Juliet by Alicia Bennett

DOCTOR WHO

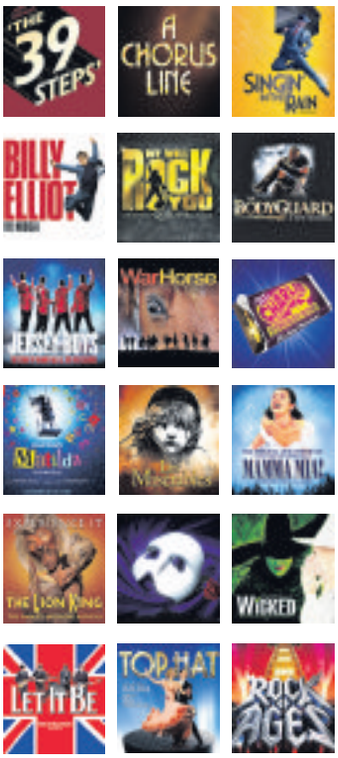
THE BBC AudioGO's ever-growing library of Doctor Who adventures, some original and some based on classic TV stories, has expanded further. Now there are more titles on CD or download to keep Whovians occupied this summer as they wait for the big 50th anniversary.

The Destiny of the Doctor series features the seventh Doctor in the hour-long Shockwave by James Swallow, performed by Sophie 'Ace' Aldred and Ian Brooker as the Time Lord. The Tardis lands on a world with inhabitants desperate to flee before it is engulfed by its sun.

In Shroud of Sorrow by Tommy Donbavand, the eleventh (current) Doctor goes back to 1963 to find Britain plunged into gloom, not only by President Kennedy's assassination but because people are haunted by the faces of dead friends and relatives. Read by Frances Barber for five hours 40 minutes.

Doctor Who and the Leisure Hive is an unabridged reading by Lalla 'Romana' Ward of one of the Target Books from the 1980s. The fourth Doctor finds himself on trial after he and Romana arrive at an intergalactic Las Vegas. It is a three hour and 45 minute epic, written by David Fisher. The fourth Doctor also features in the Babblesphere, by Jonathan Morris, in which he and Romana find an artists' paradise in decay. Lalla Ward and Roger Parrot perform the hour and 12 minute story.

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



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These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

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SATURDAY'S TV 27.07.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Nick Knowles

The National Lottery: Break the Safe
BBC1, 8.50pm

Nick Knowles returns to our screens, demanding our prime-time attention once again, in another game show effort for the National Lottery. He's no stranger to this edge-of-your-seat format, and frankly it's nice to see him back. Nick oversees three couples thrashing it out in a question-and-answer session to see which of them will be the last pair standing. That pair will then get the chance to break the eponymous safe, but the winnings will depend entirely upon how much the pair has earned throughout the previous rounds.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.45** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. New series. Magazine show, presented by Gabby Logan. **1.30** Live Athletics. The London Anniversary Games. **5.15** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix – Qualifying.

6.40 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. (1984) The intrepid archaeologist travels to India, where he battles to retrieve sacred stones in the possession of an evil cult. Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford and Kate Capshaw.

8.50 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. New series. Nick Knowles invites three pairs to take part in this against-the-clock game show, with the winners playing for the money in a safe. Includes the Lottery results.

9.40 BBC News; Weather.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)

10.30 Film: Con Air. (1997) A parolee on his flight home intervenes when America's deadliest criminals hijack the plane. Action thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, John Malkovich and Steve Buscemi; National Lottery Update.

12.15 Film: The Jackal. (1997)

2.15 Weatherview. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** Mary of Scotland. (1936) **8.30 Film:** Back to Bataan. (1945) **10.00** A History of Scotland. (R) **11.00** Life in the Freezer. (R) **11.30** University Challenge. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** EastEnders. (R) **2.40** Wild Shepherdess with Kate Humble. (R) **3.40** Springwatch Guide to Butterflies & Moths. (R) **4.40** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.

7.00 Proms Extra 2013. New series. Katie Derham presents a review of this season's concerts, including a report on Daniel Barenboim leading the Staatskapelle Berlin's performance of Wagner's Ring Cycle.

7.40 Dad's Army. First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Mainwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars. (R)

8.10 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy. The historian examines the 17th century, when royalty presided over musical breakthroughs including the first chamber concerts and proto-operas.

9.10 Top of the Lake. Robin makes a breakthrough in her investigation and also rekindles her relationship with Johnno Mitcham, but the reopening of old wounds leads to violence.

10.10 QI XL. With Sarah Millican, Jimmy Carr and Johnny Vegas. (R)

10.55 Film: The Kite Runner. (2007) Drama, starring Khalid Abdalla and Atossa Leoni.

12.55 Film: Women of Valor. (1986) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Gravity Falls. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Dinner Date. (R) **9.25** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Saturday Farm. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.35** The Chase. (R) **2.35** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.05 Film:** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Comical clips, featuring bridesmaids behaving badly. (R)

7.00 You've Been Framed! Funny footage, including a treadmill trauma. (R)

7.30 Your Face Sounds Familiar. Kian Egan joins Emma Bunton and Julian Clary on the panel as the celebrities impersonate more randomly selected music icons. Alesha Dixon and Paddy McGuinness host.

8.45 All Star Family Fortunes. TV presenter Nadia Sawalha and Emmerdale star Jane Cox (Lisa Dingle) team up with their families in an attempt to win money for charity. Vernon Kay hosts the game show.

9.45 The Americans.

10.35 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Film: The Invention of Lying. (2009) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Caterham Motorsports. **7.05** The Grid. **7.30** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Simpsons. (R) **12.35** Undercover Boss Canada. (R) **1.35** Channel 4 Racing. **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.25 Channel 4 News.

6.50 Ramadan Diaries.

6.55 Random Acts.

7.00 When Bjork Met Attenborough. Singer Bjork and naturalist David Attenborough explore the relationship between humans and music and how technology might transform the way people engage with it in the future.

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of two architects who are planning to build an eco-friendly subterranean house underneath a ruined 300-year-old barn in the Cotswolds. (R)

9.00 Film: X-Men Origins: Wolverine. (2009) The mutant hero returns to his military unit seeking revenge as he is drawn into a battle with his psychotic brother. Superhero prequel, starring Hugh Jackman.

11.10 Rude Tube. Alex Zane presents a countdown of internet stars. (R)

12.10 Film: Trading Places. (1983) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. (R) **11.00** Meerkat Manor. (R) **11.30** Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.55 Film:** The Dirty Dozen. (1967) Second World War action adventure, with Lee Marvin. **3.55** CSI: NY. (R) **4.45** CSI: NY. (R) **5.40 Film:** Jesse Stone: Thin Ice. (2009)

7.10 NCIS. Abby becomes personally involved in the case of a murdered naval scientist and makes a breakthrough when she decodes some of the markings covering the body. (R)

8.00 NCIS. The team members are surprised when Gibbs asks Tony's father to join them on a murder investigation. Guest starring Robert Wagner. (R)

8.55 NCIS. Part one of two. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. (R)

9.50 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary-room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. AJ Odudu is joined by a panel of psychologists and celebrity fans to analyse the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.35** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Olympic Opening Ceremony 2012 – Isles of Wonder **9.30** Live at the Apollo **10.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.00** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 John Sergeant on Tracks of Empire **8.00** Oceans **9.00** Wallander: Firewall **10.25** When Rock Goes Acoustic **11.25** Acoustic at the BBC

ITV2
4.55 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi (1983) **7.30 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.45 Film:** 2 Fast 2 Furious (2003) **11.55** Lemon La Vida Loca

ITV3
2.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Housewife, 49 **6.45** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis. A babysitter is murdered. **11.00** Cold Blood

ITV4
3.55 Film: The Far Country (1954) **6.00 Film:** Shalako (1968) **8.10 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **10.00** Hell on Wheels **11.00 Film:** Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983)

E4
5.30 The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Suburgatory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Happy Endings **9.00 Film:** There's Something About Mary (1998) **11.20** PhoneShop **11.55** The Inbetweeners

Film4
3.25 The King and I (1956) **6.15** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Robin Hood (2010) An archer returning from the crusades faces a plot by a traitorous knight to aid a French conquest of England. Medieval adventure, with Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett. **11.45** Underworld: Evolution (2006) Action fantasy sequel, starring Kate Beckinsale.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 28.07.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Kerrie Hayes

The Mill
Channel 4, 8pm
Set in 1833, this new drama tells the story of two groups of people – the Gregs, a wealthy family of mill owners, and the folk who work for them. The Gregs not only used slaves on their cotton plantation in the West Indies, they also forced "child apprentices" to work for nothing in their mill, Quarry Bank, in Cheshire. Donald Sumpter, Claire Rushbrook, Jamie Draven and Kevin McNally are among the stars, but stealing the show is Kerrie Hayes, who plays Esther Price, a young Liverpudlian who makes a stand against the poor treatment of her fellow workers.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Countryfile. (R) **1.05** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.50** Helicopter Heroes. (R) **2.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.20** Earthflight. (R) **4.20** Lifeline. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** Formula 1: Hungarian Grand Prix – Highlights.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Hampton Court Castle in Herefordshire, where items up for valuation include an heirloom from the early days of photography. (R)

8.00 Countryfile. The team gathers at Adam Henson's Cotswolds farm for a summer fayre to celebrate the show's 25th anniversary, with guests including Jon Culshaw, Nigel Slater and Terry Wogan.

9.00 The White Queen. George is furious when Edward makes peace with King Louis, shattering his dreams of becoming French Regent – so he accuses the queen of witchcraft and the king of murder.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Room 101 – Extra Storage. (R)

11.05 Luther. The detective is forced to work outside the law to track down vigilante killer Marwood, who has made his vendetta personal by targeting those closest to Luther. Last in the series. (R)

12.05 Film: Right at Your Door, (2006) **1.35** Weatherview. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.20 Film:** Death of a Scoundrel. (1956) **8.15** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.15** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Magazine show, presented by Gabby Logan. (R) **1.00** Live Diving: World Championships. **2.15** UEFA Women's Euro 2013. **5.15** Flog It! **5.45** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League.

8.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson and James May look at tall hatchbacks known as crossovers, and Richard Hammond drives a pair of Lamborghinis in Italy.

9.00 The Mystery of Rome's X Tomb. Michael Scott joins a team called in by the Vatican to investigate a tomb containing more than 2,000 skeletons that was discovered in one of Rome's catacombs.

10.00 The Real White Queen and Her Rivals. Part one of two. The three women who inspired the novels and TV series. (R)

11.00 What a Load of Buzzcocks. Music news stories and highlights of the comedy quiz from 2008. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 Film: Welcome to Collinwood. (2002) Five bungling crooks find their tangled personal lives getting in the way of pulling off a robbery. Crime comedy remake, starring Sam Rockwell, William H Macy and George Clooney.

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. (R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Jake and the Neverland Pirates. **6.25** Poppy Cat. **6.40** Poppy Cat. **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Bookaboo. **7.20** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **7.35** The Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes! **8.00** Sonny with a Chance. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Country House Sunday. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30 Film:** Columbo: Etude in Black. (1972) **1.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.30** The Chase. (R) **3.30** A Touch of Frost. (R) **5.30** You've Been Framed! Forever. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Coronation Street's Jennie McAlpine (Fiz Stape), Broadchurch star Pauline Quirke and actor Shaun Williamson (best known as EastEnders' Barry Evans) take part in the quiz show.

8.00 All Star Mr & Mrs. With former EastEnders star Nina Wadia (Zainab Khan), Olympic boxing gold medallist Luke Campbell and Emmerdale actress Trudie Goodwin (Georgia Sharma). Phillip Schofield presents.

9.00 Law & Order: UK. A man is found shot dead in a hotel room.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Alan Whicker: Journey's End. A tribute to the veteran broadcaster, who died earlier this month.

11.10 Murder, She Wrote. (R)

12.05 The Store. **2.05** Motorsport UK. **2.55** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.45** Monk. (R) **4.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Triathlon Championships: Liverpool. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Deal or No Deal. **3.00** The Anniversary Games. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.55** Ramadan Diaries.

6.00 Film: Letters to Juliet. (2010) Premiere. A writer finds a 50-year-old letter from a heartbroken woman and helps her track down the man she loved. Romantic drama, starring Amanda Seyfried.

8.00 The Mill. New series. Drama set in the 19th century, based on the history of Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire, where children as young as nine worked 12-hour shifts. Starring Kerrie Hayes.

9.00 The Returned. The living deeply fear the dead, especially as a new and more sinister wave of them arrives in town, and it seems that everyone is going to have to choose sides. Last in the series.

10.10 Film: The Final Destination. (2009) Horror sequel, starring Bobby Campo.

11.45 Film: Animal Kingdom. (2010) An orphaned teenager is adopted into his grandmother's criminal family, and must decide where his loyalties lie. Crime thriller, with James Frecheville and Guy Pearce.

1.40 Southland. (R) **2.20** Secret Eaters. (R) **3.15** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.15** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.10** Countdown. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.15** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloe's Closet. **6.50** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.15** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.30** City of Friends. (R) **7.40** Mio Mao. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.35** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.30** Jelly Jamm. **9.50** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.25** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. (R) **10.45** Inside Hollywood. **10.55** Big Brother. (R) **11.50** BB BOTS: Rylan's Supersized Celebrity Sunday. **12.50 Film:** Rocky V. (1990) **2.55 Film:** Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot. (1992) **4.40 Film:** Zoom. (2006)

6.20 Film: Open Season. (2006) Animated comedy, featuring the voices of Martin Lawrence and Ashton Kutcher.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Cora tries to get to Mr Gold before the dark magic dies with him.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights.

10.00 Film: Rocky Balboa. (2006) Boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone.

12.00 Love/Hate. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 UEFA Women's Euro 2013 **8.00** The Best Sport Film Ever! **8.30 Film:** WALL.E (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Badults **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 A Poet's Guide to Britain **7.30** Proms on Four: 20th Century Classics **9.20 Film:** Young Winston (1972) **11.35** It's Slade

ITV2
3.30 The Xtra Factor: Girls Best & Worst Ever **4.35 Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **6.35 Film:** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.00 Film:** 300 (2006) **11.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **11.50** Hell's Kitchen

ITV3
3.15 Film: Carry On Cowboy (1966) **5.10** Wycliffe **6.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00 Film:** Gorillas in the Mist (1988) **11.40** Brides in the Bath

ITV4
3.05 Film: Shalako (1968) **5.25 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **7.10 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **10.00 Film:** The Silence of the Lambs (1991)

E4
4.35 90210 **5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** New Girl **8.00 Film:** The Golden Compass (2007) **10.15** The Inbetweeners **10.50** Skins: Pure – Part Two **11.55** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23

Film4
3.15 The Love Bug (1968) **5.25** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **7.10** Legend (1985) **9.00** True Lies (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.45** Daredevil (2003)

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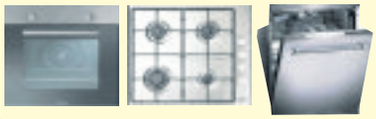

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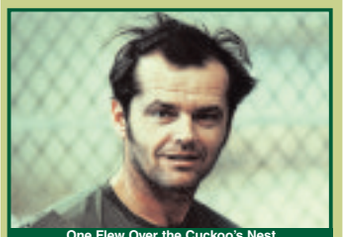
Film Choices

MONDAY
Michael Collins, BBC1, 11.40pm
Fact-based drama focusing on the life of the Irish radical who rose to prominence after his involvement in the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule. He became a hero to his countryfolk before his single-minded determination to stick to his plans alienated him from his allies. Written and directed by Neil Jordan, and starring Liam Neeson, Julia Roberts, Alan Rickman, Aidan Quinn and Stephen Rea. (1996)



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.50pm

TUESDAY
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, BBC1, 11.50pm
A rebellious convict gets himself sent to a psychiatric hospital, thinking it will be easier than prison. Finding himself surrounded by institutionalised patients, he encourages them to rebel against the tyrannical head nurse. Drama based on Ken Kesey's novel, starring Jack Nicholson, Brad Dourif and Danny DeVito. (1975)

WEDNESDAY
DOA, BBC1, 11.45pm
A burned-out college professor is accused of murdering his wife's lover, and tries to cope by going on an all-night drinking binge – but wakes to discover someone has slipped him a fatal poison, leaving him with just 24 hours to find his would-be killers. Remake of the 1950 thriller, with Dennis Quaid, Meg Ryan, Charlotte Rampling, Daniel Stern and Jane Kaczmarek. (1988)

THURSDAY
The Rookie, BBC1, 11.35pm
A talented baseball player's dreams of turning professional end with an injury. Years later, he takes up the sport again when he agrees to coach a high-school team. However, a light-hearted wager with the players obliges him to try to make a comeback to the big time – with astonishing results. Fact-based drama, with Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths, Jay Hernandez, Beth Grant and Angus T Jones. (2002)

Friday
The River Wild, ITV, 10.35pm
A headstrong white-water rafting expert embarks on a holiday with her family, but their fun comes to an abrupt end when two killers show up. The fugitives' only escape route from the law is down a raging river, so they take the woman and her son hostage to act as guides. Meanwhile, her husband desperately tries to keep track from the riverbank, waiting for his opportunity to launch a rescue attempt. Action thriller, with Meryl Streep, Kevin Bacon, David Strathairn and Joseph Mazzello. (1994)

Pick of the Week

New series is safe in Nick's reliable hands

Nick Knowles has found a cosy little place for himself among the Beeb's most desirable programmes. Well, he's got the women falling at his feet and he's pretty nifty with a power tool – the man's got a lot going for him.

And while many of the female population will be down-heartened to learn Nick's recently got married, all things considered, this man is genius telly.

Tonight, he returns to our screens in Break the Safe, demanding our prime-time attention once again (and he'll get it), in another game show effort for the National Lottery.

He's no stranger to this edge-of-your-seat format, having fronted Who Dares Wins and Secret Fortune before it, and frankly it's nice to see him back.

Nick oversees three couples thrashing it out in a question-and-answer session to see which of them will be the last pair standing. That pair will then get the chance to break the eponymous safe, which could contain up to £100,000, but will depend entirely upon how much the pair has earned throughout the previous rounds.

For Nick, surely the busiest man in telly, this is one project he's particularly proud of. He explains: "The BBC [has] decided to pull this thing together; the best team of the best people they could get to make a quiz show on a Saturday night; exec producers, producers, game show creators, stage designers, so it's a proper let's-go-for-it-big Saturday night quiz show.

"The result has been four years in the making. It's about relationships basically, brother and sister, mum and son, best friends, coming in pairs to play in a game where they have to work together, to answer questions, to earn money and trust each other about how much they know about each other's knowledge."

Thankfully, this gripping effort won't interfere with the work with which Nick has built up quite a name for himself, DIY SOS, and, touch wood, there will be plenty more of those in the making too.

But how does Nick feel about his widely varied job?

"Well the thing for me has always been, as anybody in television will tell you, what you should do is do one thing and stick to it because the audience don't like you to hop around all over the place.

"My whole career, I've made sure that the next thing I do is nothing like the last thing I did. But I'm at the point now where the audience, I think, will pretty much let me do any kind of programme."

He adds: "I think people get a break and then think 'I'm famous, all I have to do is turn up' whereas I think probably because of the background I've come from, I'm always expecting it to finish any day so the next programme has to be better than the last one, and we have to produce the best possible programme that we can."

For those of you with hopes of winning your own small fortune tonight, the Lotto and Thunderball draws will of course feature.

Nick Knowles hosts The National Lottery: Break the Safe, Saturday, BBC1, 8.50pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Caligula with Mary Beard
BBC2, 9pm
He was born Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus – but everyone knew him as Caligula. In the centuries since his death, it's fair to say that the former Roman emperor's image has become rather tarnished. It's been said that he proclaimed himself a living god, married his sister, made his horse a consul, and took part in scandalous orgies. But was he really as maniacal as has been suggested? In this one-off documentary, Mary Beard aims to find out. She travels across areas of the world that were once part of the mighty Roman Empire in an attempt to find evidence of Caligula's true personality, uncovering facts about the statesman that could provide vital clues about what he really got up to.

TUESDAY
Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm
What Alan Titchmarsh doesn't know about greenery, let's face it, probably isn't all that worth knowing. In his latest series, He's shown we lazy types that we don't need to be rolling in money, or have all the time in the world, to make our gardens look loved and presentable. Tonight, Alan comes to the aid of Rhyanne Nixon who has been confined to a wheelchair by Motor Neurone Disease. She has moved to a small bungalow where the garden is dominated by a wooden viewing platform that she can't access. And being a former holistic practitioner, Rhyanne's dream is to have a space filled with colour and fragrance.

Why Don't You Speak English?
Channel 4, 9pm
In the concluding episode, the immigrants are still trying to get to grips with the English language, but now halfway through their period of learning, the tables are turned and it's the Brits who are going to get a lesson in culture. They've lived in Britain for over a year, originally hailing from Poland, Columbia, China and the Democratic Republic of Congo. After spending a week in the homes of their British hosts, it's now the turn of the immigrants to play host to the hosts.

WEDNESDAY
You Saw Them Here First
ITV, 8pm
We all know the feeling of utter horror when the proud nan in front of all the family insists on dusting down that old video of you playing among the wrapping paper on Christmas Day as wee youngster. So spare a thought for the celebrities featured in this new series, which shames them on a much bigger scale. The programme delves into the archives to reveal the television debuts of some of Britain's best-loved actors, presenters and pop stars, and first up there's a look back at daytime show This Morning, featuring a 15-year-old Kym Marsh, and teen singers Will Young and Lee Ryan looking for stardom.

Alex Brooker: My Perfect Body
Channel 4, 10.50pm
Little over a year ago, Alex Brooker was barely known. However, thanks to the world's eye being on the Olympics and Paralympics last year, he now looks likely to become a household name. In this documentary, the Channel 4 Paralympics and Last Leg presenter is exploring male body image, but aside from simply shedding light on how men really feel about their bodies, the show follows a personal challenge for Alex. He wants to lose two stone in weight and gain a six-pack – in two months. The programme hears from the presenter's mum who details his history of weight issues.

Alex Brooker: My Perfect Body, Wednesday, Channel 4, 10.50pm

THURSDAY
The Dealership
Channel 4, 8pm
When it comes to popularity and perceived trustworthiness, 'used car salesmen' were once ranked somewhere between estate agents and politicians. But in these days of economic uncertainty, it seems it's more likely to be the customers driving a hard bargain. This new three-part series goes behind the scenes of the Essex Car Company, a family-run dealership in Rainham, to give the tyres a metaphorical kick. We discover that the team of salesmen definitely have the patter, and in the case of James, the figures to back it up – he shifts 30 cars every month. But for new boy Scott, living on commission is proving to be tough, and he needs to start closing deals.

DIY SOS: The Big Build
BBC1, 9pm
Though some BBC bosses weren't happy with this series when it debuted in 1999, the fact seven million viewers got hooked on the first series led to many more and this spin-off show. This edition focuses on Eric Rivers, a terminally ill man suffering from motor neurone disease. Nick and co step in to carry out the alterations he needs to the terraced home Eric shares with his wife Davina and three daughters. The aim is to create more space, and to make the existing rooms more manageable for him.

FRIDAY
That Music Show
Channel 4, 10pm
When it comes to music, what Radio 1 Breakfast Show DJ Nick Grimshaw doesn't know about the sounds of 1995 and 2005 probably isn't all that worth knowing. So with this new, one-off quiz show, he pits the two years against each other as two teams consisting of the mouthiest musicians and cockiest comedians compete to determine who knows the most about each era. The show strikes a balance between traditional panel show and live music gig, as performances from Glaswegian alt-rock outfit Primal Scream and London-based electro pop duo AlunaGeorge punctuate proceedings.

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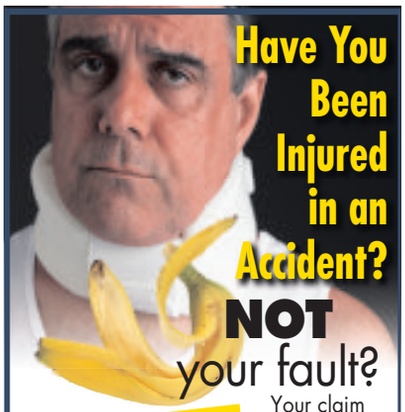

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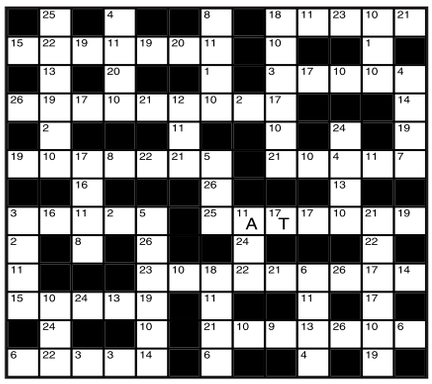
Brain Gym

No.231

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	I	Z	R	F	S	G	D	C	E	A	M	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	X	W	K	O	Q	V	Y	J	H	L	U	T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

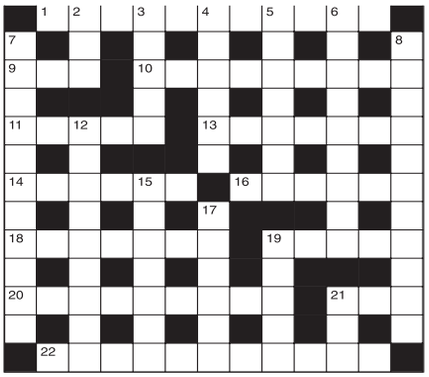
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. High cultivated features of modern cities (4-7)
9. Everything, we hear, for shoemakers (3)
10. Dreadful comedown for Alpine travellers (9)
11. Fashionable race-course for a northern Briton (5)
13. Siamese knitwear? (4-3)
14. Shelter for fliers (6)
16. A donkey, it's about to help (6)
18. Trampled, with or without study (7)
19. Regal part of Troy, a long time ago (5)
20. Their guns will be broken, you can safely bet on that! (4,5)
21. He has nothing inside for the gardener (3)
22. Their husbands didn't leave them unconsoled, apparently! (5,6)

Down

2. Naturally, it lacks refinement (3)
3. Spread strongly over the East (5)
4. Stays will change a waist (6)
5. Record books I'd come up to sign (7)
6. Need no luxury (9)
7. He will fall on his enemies (11)
8. He prefers to be a man lacking spirit (11)
12. A crowd of a hundred heading the right way (9)
15. He will be called to account (7)
17. I've now become available for inspection (2,4)
19. Stiff clothes I'd put on (5)
21. Cut out of the will (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Forerunner (11)
9. Pinch (3)
10. Clock (9)
11. Proposal (5)
13. Copy (7)
14. Misanthropes (6)
16. Selfish person (6)
18. Long curl (7)
19. Compact (5)
20. Get rid of (9)
21. In the past (3)
22. In turn (11)

Down

2. Slash (3)
3. Put off (5)
4. Perpetrate (6)
5. Young tree (7)
6. At work (9)
7. Not anxious (11)
8. Hatred (11)
12. Monetary (9)
15. Clash (7)
17. Reach (6)
19. Handle (5)
21. Everybody (3)

Sudoku

	2				3		6	
	6	4	8		7	5	2	
		1				3		
		7	3		1	9		
1							3	
		2	5		4	8		
		6		3		1		
	1	3	4		5	2	8	
	9						5	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	2	5	7	9	3	4	1	8
4	1	7	6	2	8	5	9	3
9	3	8	5	1	4	6	7	2
3	4	6	9	5	7	8	2	1
2	7	9	8	4	1	3	6	5
5	8	1	3	6	2	9	4	7
7	9	4	1	8	5	2	3	6
1	5	2	4	3	6	7	8	9
8	6	3	2	7	9	1	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Logs; 3 Saw-bills; 9 Frisked; 10 Cubit; 11 Overthrowing; 13 Extent; 15 Joiner; 17 Heart-disease; 20 Baton; 21 Transit; 22 Dressers; 23 Stay. Down: 1 Left-over; 2 Guide; 4 Adders; 5 Backwoodsman; 6 Lebanon; 7 Site; 8 Skating-rinks; 12 Priestly; 14 Trestle; 16 Editor; 18 Asset; 19 Abed. QUICK - Across: 1 Pert; 3 Preserve; 9 Erasers; 10 Trite; 11 Schoolmaster; 13 Raffle; 15 Falter; 17 Discourteous; 20 Ennui; 21 Verbose; 22 Ordinary; 23 Grit. Down: 1 Pleasure; 2 Reach; 4 Resume; 5 Satisfactory; 6 Raiment; 7 Ewer; 8 Recollection; 12 Prospect; 14 Feigned; 16 Quiver; 18 Odour; 19 Zero.

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WORDSLEY
85 ARUNDEL ROAD

- Modern semi detached house
- Rear lawned garden
- 3 bedrooms (EPC - C)

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TIPTON
79 NEWCOMEN DRIVE

- Modern end town house
- 3 bedrooms master with en-suite
- Rear garden with patio area (EPC - C)

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257 WRENS NEST ROAD

- Mid 3 bed town house
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AMBLECOTE
FLAT F HIGH STREET

- Second floor one bed flat
- Recently decorated through out
- Parking area (EPC - C)

£370 PCM

www.leeshaw.com

Property

The three-bedroomed house has been extended to the rear to create a separate dining room

Family three-bed home on outskirts of village

A MODERN three bedroom end town house on the edge of the village of Wombourne is on the market based on offers around £146,950.

The property in Foley Grove benefits from mainly double glazing and central heating and has been extended to the rear to create a separate dining room, and with a garage in a block at the rear.

On the ground floor the L-shaped lounge has a fireplace with inset fire and a sliding door to the kitchen with a range of base, drawer and wall units, space for washing machine and cooker with extractor hood over and stainless steel sink with mixer tap,with the dining room having patio doors to the garden.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of wash hand basin, WC and panelled bath with shower over.

Outside to the front is a path and lawned garden and to the rear a paved patio, lawn and borders. For further details call the agent Berriman Eaton on 01902 32636.

www.bakersproperty.co.uk

Gornal
Ellowes Road
Open Viewing Saturday 27th July
10.30 am-12 noon

Quality development of five homes built to a high specification and carpeted throughout. Situated in a popular residential location within walking distance of the village centre.

Good sized front gardens with parking, hall, lounge with rear elevation door to patio and gardens, fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and ceramic tiled floor, ground floor cloakroom, two double bedrooms, bathroom with full suite and over bath shower, fully fenced and lawned rear gardens, gas central heating, double glazed, carpeted, freehold.

Available to reserve on Saturday 27th July
£120,000

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DUDLEY NEW

DONNINGTON COURT
£550 pcm
Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking

KINGSWINFORD NEW

RAGEES ROAD
£295 pcm
Purpose Built Studio, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom Area,Shower Room, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

GREAT BRIDGE NEW

EAGLE PLACE
£370 pcm
First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking

DUDLEY NEW

SALOP STREET
£350 pcm
Ground Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, DSS considered. No Pets.

BILSTON NEW

GREAT BRIDGE ROAD
£325 pcm
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing.

KINGSWINFORD NEW

RAGEES ROAD
£325 pcm
First floor Studio Apartment, Security Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom Area, Shower Room, Electric Heating, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking, FURNISHED

GORNAL NEW

BARR STREET
£510 pcm
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

QUARRY BANK NEW

NEW STREET
£495 pcm
Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens

BRIERLEY HILL NEW

DADFORD VIEW
£450 pcm
Cluster Style Property. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

LAKESIDE NEW

KIRKSTONE COURT
£395 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking

NETHERTON NEW

PURLIN WHARF
£550 pcm
Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, · Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking

AMBLECOTE NEW

HIGH STREET
£625 pcm
Modern End Terrace House, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted En Suite, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

CINDERBANK NEW

NETHERTON
£200 pcm
Shop premises on main road position (kiosk style) £200 pcm Lease term negotiable

SEDGLEY NEW

KINGS ROAD
£550 pcm
Mid Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

RUSSELLS HALL

MERRYFIELD ROAD
£550 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens

WORDSLEY

GUARDIANS WALK
£725 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Single Garage, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

CHURCH STREET
£550 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

WINDERMERE DRIVE
£695 pcm
Link Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

WORDSLEY

JOHN STREET
£585 PCM
End Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Two Reception Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Garage, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

PENSNETT

BRYCE ROAD
£525 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens

BROCKMOOR

STATION ROAD
£475 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

BISELL WAY
£395 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

TRINITY STREET
£525 pcm
Mid Terrace House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden

DUDLEY

LIMES ROAD
£525 pcm
Modern Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

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YOUR MOVE

LOWER GORNAL Offers Over £150,000

GROSVENOR ROAD

•EPC C•A Three Bedroom Dormer Bungalow•Two Ground Floor Bedrooms,Dormer Bedroom One•Through Lounge/Dining Room•Kitchen•Conservatory•Garage To Rear•Rear Garden

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON £130,000

BARTLETT CLOSE

•EPC Rating E•An Improved & Extended Semi Detached•Three Bedrooms•Through Lounge/Dining Room•Conservatory•Utility Room•Bathroom•Garage•Low Maintenace Rear Garden

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

Invitation

You're invited to have a **FREE** market valuation which includes:

- Advising you on what we believe to be the current value of your home in today's market
- Telling you about the demand we have for your type of property and the buyers we have waiting
- Discussing the moving process and the associated costs with you
- Explaining the benefits of selling your home with **YOUR MOVE**

Contact us for more details

EAR9685 02/2012

TIVIDALE £165,000

STOKESAY CLOSE

•EPC RATING E•A Three Bedroom Detached Property•Through Lounge/Dining Room•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Garage•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Drive•No Chain

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

OLDBURY £95,000

TITFORD ROAD

•EPC Rating Awaited•An Improved Mid Terraced Residence•Two Double Bedrooms•Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Enclosed Rear Garden

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY £79,950

FRENCH ROAD

•EPC RATINGS AWAITED•Three Bedrooms•Lounge•Fitted Kitchen Diner•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Drive•No Chain

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY Offers Over £155,000

ST MARKS ROAD

•EPC RATINGS AWAITED•Bay Fronted Detached Property•Three Bedrooms•Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen•Garage•Drive•No Chain•Rear Garden

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE £95,000

ASTON ROAD

•EPC RATING AWAITED•Orginally Two Now Three Bedroom Semi Detached•Through Lounge/Dining Room•First Floor Bathroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Rear Garden•No Chain

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE £150,000

OAKHAM ROAD

•EPC D•An Extended Detached•Three Bedrooms•Extended Breakfast Kitchen•Utility Room•Garage•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Rear Garden•Drive•No Chain

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

UPPER GORNAL £77,000

NAYLORS GROVE

•EPC RATING AWAITED•An Improved Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat•Fitted Kitchen•Lounge•Bathroom•Double Glazing Where Stated•Gas Central Heating System•Viewing Recommended

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIVIDALE £199,950

DARBYS HILL ROAD

•EPC Rating C•An Extended & Well Presented Detached Property•Four Bedrooms•Extended Kitchen/Dining Room•Rear Lounge Overlooking Rear Garden•Ground Floor Cloakroom•Utility Room•Drive

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

DUDLEY £135,000

DIBDALE ROAD

•A Bay Fronted Semi Detached •Three Bedrooms •Lounge •Fitting Dining Kitchen •Attic Room Having Pull Down Ladder •Gas Central Heating System •Double Glazing Where Stated •Extensive Rear Garden •Driveway •Viewing Recommended

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

TIPTON £104,000

LINDLEY AVENUE

•Improved Three Bedrooms Semi Detached •Extended Kitchen •Fitted Bthroom •Gas Central Heated System •Double Glazed Where Stated •Cul-De-Sac Location •Enclosed Rear Garden •No Upward Chain •Ideal For First Time Buyers

DUDLEY ✆ 01384 455000

sales lettings mortgages **Dudley** 215, High Street ✆ **01384 455000**

O-E-A Ombudsman www.oea.co.uk

SWINSCOES

Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

HURST HILL, COSELEY

Clifton Street

* An impressive end terraced property * Enhanced throughout
* Spacious Dining room
* Lounge with feature wood burner
* Breakfast kitchen
* Two double bedrooms
* Delightful rear garden
* Viewing highly recommended
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £117,000

SEDGLEY

Rowan Road

A spacious semi-detached property
Conveniently situated in Sedgley
Three good size bedrooms
Through Kitchen Diner
Utility & downstairs w.c.
Brick built outhouse/store
An ideal first time buy
EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £118,500

SEDGLEY

Tipton Street

* A traditional terrace property
* In walking distance into Sedgley Centre
* Deceptively spacious
* Dining room, Lounge
* Kitchen & Utility room
* THREE bedrooms
* Upstairs bathroom
* Good size rear garden
* Viewing is recommended
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £123,950

LOWER GORNAL, DUDLEY

The Alley

* A traditional 3 bed semi
* Quiet cul-de-sac close to nature reserve
* Good sized lounge overlooking rear garden
* Dining kitchen , side lobby and hallway
* Gas central heating and upvc double glazing
* Modern shower room
* Pleasant tiered rear garden with a sunny position
* Garage and off road parking
* NO Upward Chain
* Epc band C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

UPPER GORNAL

Redwood Avenue

* Exceptional FOUR bed semi
* Impressive, spacious accommodation.
*Though lounge/dining room
* Conservatory
* Modern kitchen, utility, WC
* Beautifully fitted bathroom
* Generous sized rear garden, sunny aspect
* Garage
* Parking for 3 cars
* EPC tbc

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £145,000

COSELEY

Clifton Street

* A good size detached Bungalow
* Positioned on a large plot
* Some updating required
* Open plan dining kitchen
* Two bedrooms & bathroom
* Low maintenance rear garden
* Double garage and driveway
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £147,500

ETTINGSHALL PARK,

Grosvenor Road

* Attractively presented traditional semi
* Lounge with dining area
* Modern kitchen with integrated appliances
* Three bedrooms
* Fitted bathroom with corner bath
* Garage & Utility room behind
* Well kept gardens
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £152,000

LOWER GORNAL

Humphrey Street

* A spacious Detached family home
* In a quiet and convenient location
* Open plan kitchen/ dining room
* Three good size bedrooms
* Garage with utility facilities
* Excellent size rear garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* Some updating required
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £165,000

DUDLEY

Mansion Close

* A modern detached family home
* Set in a quiet cul-de-sac location
* Modern breakfast kitchen
* Lounge & separate dining room
* Three bedrooms
* Ensuite to master
* Garage & rear garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £165,000

LANESFIELD

Lane Road

* Immaculately presented TWO bed detached bungalow
* Enhanced throughout
* Open plan lounge/dining room
* Modern kitchen & Bathroom
* Low maintenance garden
* Off road parking
* EPC tbc

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

COSELEY

Clifton Street

* A traditional DETACHED home
* Open plan lounge/dining room
* Modern Kitchen
* Three good size bedrooms
* An excellent size bathroom
* Rear gardens & garage
* Off road parking for 2/3 cars
* An ideal family home
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

SWINDON

Swinforge Way

* Four bed detached, village location
* Delightful canal side setting
* Lounge * Dining room
* Breakfast kitchen
* Upvc double glazed windows
* Gas central heating
* Garage, driveway parking
* PART EX CONSIDERED
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £240,000

www.swinscoes.co.uk **www.rightmove.co.uk** **www.zoopla.co.uk**

RODENBOYDELL

SEDGLEY

CATHOLIC LANE

A four-bedroom detached home of considerable style and quality that briefly comprises an elegant reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a formal dining room, a fitted breakfast kitchen, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further double bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating a double garage and impressive grounds that have been carefully landscaped to create beautiful gardens. EPC rating E

£394,950

SEDGLEY

MODEN HILL

A beautifully appointed detached cottage that has recently been restored and extended and briefly comprises a spacious sitting room / reception room, a magnificent lounge, a superb fitted kitchen, a guest cloakroom, three double bedrooms, a luxury bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a driveway and attractive gardens that enjoy panoramic views of the local countryside and beyond. EPC rating C

£319,950

LOWER GORNAL

PROSPECT ROAD

A unique and extremely spacious, three / four bedroom detached home of considerable style that briefly comprises a reception hall, a spacious lounge, a dining area, a superb fitted kitchen, a downstairs w/c, a master bedroom en-suite with a private sitting room, two / three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, gas fired central heating, UPVC double-glazing, a garage and a beautiful rear garden. EPC rating C

£299,950

SEDGLEY

NORTHWAY

A five-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a fabulous lounge, a conservatory, a fitted kitchen, a master bedroom en-suite, four further bedrooms, a family bathroom, a utility room, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden overlooking local farmland. EPC rating E

£289,950

LOWER GORNAL

CEDARWOOD ROAD

A three-bedroom split level home that is arranged on two floors and briefly comprises a reception hall, a magnificent lounge with panoramic views, a dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a detached double garage and a delightful garden with views of Ellowes Hall sports field and open countryside beyond. EPC rating D

£229,950

SEDGLEY

CASWELL ROAD

A three bedroom link detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, an open plan lounge/dining room, a conservatory, a separate sitting room/playroom, a magnificent fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a utility room, a downstairs wc, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating tba

£219,950

LOWER GORNAL

FIELDSTONE VIEW

A four-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a utility room, a master bedroom en-suite, three further good sized bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D

£219,950

SEDGLEY

PENNS WOOD CLOSE

A four bedroom detached home that enjoys a beautiful rear garden that backs onto the local coppice. It briefly comprises a reception porch; a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, a utility room, four bedrooms, a bathroom, a separate shower room, a garage, UPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC rating D

£212,950

Clent View

Old Buffery Gardens, Dudley

Clent View is a stunning development of brand new two and three-bedroom homes constructed by IP Developments, that are situated in a delightful cul-de-sac location adjacent to Buffery Park in Dudley.

The Ludlow is a three-bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, an open plan dining kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway, a rear garden and a 10-year NHBC guarantee.

Prices from **£139,950**

SEDGLEY

WOMBOURNE CLOSE

A four-bedroom link detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a dining room, a superb fitted kitchen, a master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a carport, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating C.

£209,950

LOWER GORNAL

REDHALL ROAD

A three-bedroom detached home that has a separate detached annexe that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a verandah, three bedrooms, a bathroom UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating and attractive gardens. EPC rating E

£204,950

MILKING BANK

CAERNARVON WAY

A four bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a magnificent fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a conservatory, a utility room, a downstairs WC, four bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating D.

£199,950

SEDGLEY

GOWER ROAD

A three-bedroom link detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a sitting room / dining room, a superb fitted breakfast kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a downstairs w/c, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage, UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating and a pleasant rear garden that enjoys distant views. EPC rating E

£189,950

LOWER GORNAL

STRAITS ROAD

A two bedroom detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, a superb dining kitchen with a comprehensive range of integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and pleasant gardens. EPC rating B

£164,950

LOWER GORNAL

ST ANDREWS CLOSE

A three bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a conservatory, a superb fitted dining kitchen, a utility room, a downstairs shower room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing where stated, gas fired central heating, a storage room and a pleasant rear garden with magnificent views of the local countryside. EPC rating D

£159,950

SEDGLEY

NORTHWAY

A three-bedroom semi-detached home that briefly comprises a reception porch, a reception hall, a lounge, a sitting room / dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E

£156,950

FAIRVIEW PARK

MANDERSTON CLOSE

A three-bedroom mews style house that briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a lounge, an open plan kitchen / dining room, a conservatory, a master bedroom en-suite, two further bedrooms, a family bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a garage and a delightful rear garden. EPC Rating C

£156,950

SEDGLEY

GREENWAY

A three-bedroom end terraced home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a separate dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, three good sized bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a rear garden. EPC rating E.

£113,950

HURST HILL

CLIFTON STREET

A two bedroom mid terraced home that briefly comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a sitting room/dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two double bedrooms, a bathroom, UPVC double glazing, gas fired central heating and a delightful rear garden. EPC rating tba

£111,950

SEDGLEY

DUDLEY ROAD

A two-bedroom mid terraced home that briefly comprises a lounge, a dining room, a superb fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, a verandah, two double bedrooms, a bathroom UPVC double-glazing where stated, gas fired central heating and a rear garden. EPC rating D.

£99,950

ASHDALE PARK

CARDONESS PLACE

A 50% shared ownership property that briefly comprises a reception porch, a lounge, a superb fitted dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two bedrooms, a bathroom, double-glazing, gas fired central heating, a driveway and a rear garden. EPC rating C

£57,950

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Taylors

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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BRIERLEY HILL	84-86 High Street	01384 265265
STOURBRIDGE	85 High Street	01384 395555

6 LOCAL OFFICES WORKING HARDER FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

WALL HEATH — Maidensbridge Road

£10,000 REDUCTION

Commanding a corner position within a premier address, close to excellent schools, this SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED, MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME is EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED and IMMACULATELY PRESENTED throughout, including a LARGE DORMER LOFT CONVERSION, offering a VERY LARGE layout of ready to move into accommodation including GAS CENTRAL HEATING, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Extended Reception Hall, Guests Cloakroom/WC, huge Sitting Room, LUXURY FULL WIDTH BREAKFAST KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES, Utility, LARGE CONSERVATORY, separate Study, FIVE VERY GOOD BEDROOMS (Master 19 1 x 14 7 mx. with EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM), and expensively refitted House Bathroom. LARGE FRONT DRIVEWAY, additional REAR DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED SUNNY REAR GARDEN. EPC Rating: C. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£334,950

WALL HEATH — Brook Crescent

This IMPOSING AND ELEGANT MODERN DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE, only recently built to a high specification and enjoying this respected village location, offers: Canopy Porch, fine 13 Hall with Cloaks/Toilet off, MAGNIFICENT 16 LOUNGE with feature fire, separate Dining Room, IMPRESSIVE AND SPACIOUS BREAKFAST ROOM-with- LIGHT WOOD KITCHEN having integrated appliances and laundry facility, FOUR EXCELLENT BEDROOMS, En-Suite plus feature House Bathroom, HIGH EFFICIENCY GAS CENTRAL HEATING and DOUBLE GLAZING. Forelawn with broad drive and further parking, GARAGE and rear patio and level lawns with pleasant aspect. EPC Rating: C . KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£284,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Straits

RECENTLY COMPLETED! A distinctive, DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow excellently situated within reasonable walking distance of day-to-day shops, post office, country park, bus route & so many other amenities. Covered by NHBC guarantee, the accommodation provides imposing 24'3" reception hall (lofty ceiling heights), cloaks cupboard, THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), bathroom, well equipped kitchen, lounge. Landscaped gardens with an imposing frontage with parking for numerous vehicles. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £209,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Baxter Road

Pleasantly situated within this popular address, this BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED AND IMPROVED, THREE BEDROOM, LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME, affords an arrangement of accommodation with both GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, and is seen to briefly comprise: reception hall, pleasant sitting room, generous dining room, superb kitchen, three good size first floor bedrooms and a delightful bathroom. Ample drive, and with a beautifully presented and versatile rear garden. Indeed a home which shall require an internal viewing so that full appreciation can be given. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL 01384 265265

£169,950

KINGSWINFORD

Randall Close

An IMPRESSIVE MODERN SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE close to schooling and shops, upon the fringes of High Acres , providing VERY WELL PRESENTED and GENEROUS accommodation which is ready to move into and comprises: Entrance Porch, Reception Hall, ground floor Guests Cloakroom/WC, large 27 full depth Lounge-with-Dining Area, spacious fitted Kitchen with appliances, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set beyond the DRIVEWAY with 20 GARAGE and a very private rear garden. EPC Rating E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£149,950

BRIERLEY HILL

Crescent Avenue

We are pleased to offer for sale this well proportioned, well presented traditional style, gas centrally heated and double glazed, three bedroomed semi detached property situated in this highly regarded location. Having seen many improvements by the current vendors the accommodation is seen to comprise, hall, lounge, dining room, modern kitchen, guest w.c., three good sized first floor double bedrooms, bathroom, neat garden with timber decking to the rear, garden to front, garage to the side, burglar alarm. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£134,950

NETHERTON

Amphletts Close

Enjoying a lovely position within this now established close, this VERY WELL ARRANGED, MODERN, THREE BEDROOM, MEWS STYLED HOME affords a layout with GAS CENTRAL HEATING AND DOUBLE GLAZING to briefly comprise: Attractive Sitting Room, Combined Dining Kitchen, CONSERVATORY, Three First Floor Bedrooms (Master with ENSUITE) and Principal Bathroom. Block Paved Drive, Garage and Easily Manageable Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£129,950

UPPER GORNAL

Stable Court

A delightful, particularly stylish, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & double glazed end 'starter home' with rare advantage of substantial brick GARAGE, most conveniently situated in short cul de sac within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities & facilities. Accommodation includes lounge (with living flame gas fire), recently refitted transverse breakfast kitchen with a fine range of units & various appliances, two bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom, secluded rear garden with decking & slate chippings & a brick garage with additional parking. Alarmed. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £112,950

COSELEY

Brunel Court

This modern style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, three bedroom townhouse provides surprisingly spacious living space, and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance porch, hall, lounge, dining kitchen, guest w.c. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden and secure gated parking to rear. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £94,950

DUDLEY

Linwood Road

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated, three bedroom mid townhouse is situated in an established location, and may particularly appeal to first time buyers. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, guest w.c. Three bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Driveway, and lawned rear garden, EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

SEDGLEY — Southerndown Road, Brownswall Estate

An EXTENDED, absolutely outstanding & exceptionally well appointed, freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached bungalow enviably situated on periphery of favoured development ABUTTING ONTO OPEN FIELDS with good distant views beyond. The property is presented in exemplary order with accommodation providing reception hall, cloaks cupboard, two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom (with white suite incorporating cast 'slipper bath' & separate tiled shower cubicle), extended (22'4" x 14'6") lounge, extended 24ft dining kitchen with a fine range of contemporary style oak units & various integrated appliances, substantial garage with laundry/utility section beyond, magnificent landscaped gardens abutting onto and overlooking open fields. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £255,000

UPPER GORNAL/SEDGLEY

Dudley Road

An EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS, freehold, gas radiator centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached family home within reasonable walking distance of so many amenities. Providing significant potential, the accommodation includes entrance vestibule, fitted cloakroom & further cloaks cupboard, superb 25'7" through living/dining room (with possibilities of sub-division?), kitchen, pantry, lobby. FOUR BEDROOMS (three with wardrobes), bathroom, garage, level gardens. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £175,000

SEDGLEY — Caswell Road

NEW PRICE

An absolutely outstanding, exceptionally well appointed, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed, EXTENDED, detached residence in exemplary order throughout in favoured district with panoramic distant views from the front. Superb, stylish accommodation includes imposing reception hall, fitted cloakroom, elegant L-shape 19ft through lounge, brick/uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, separate dining room, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of oak units & various integrated appliances. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (principal bedroom with professionally installed range of units), reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white suite, large garage, block paved double driveway, secluded landscaped rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £239,950, NOW £229,000

WALL HEATH

EXTENDED

New Dudley Road

Forming part of this highly sought after address, with pleasant front views towards ATTRACTIVE WOODED GREEN, this SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED, TRADITIIONAL BAY FRONTED SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME is enhanced by an ATTRACTIVE SOUTH FACING REAR GARDEN and offers ENLARGED and ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED accommodation, comprising: Reception Hall, extended large Lounge, separate formal Dining Room, refitted Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, refitted classic white Bathroom with separate shower; GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. Set back beyond a GOOD SIZED DRIVEWAY to the fore which provides ample off-road parking for several vehicles and having a GARAGE / STORE to the rear (accessed via Dudley Road).EPC Rating - E. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£174,950

WOLVERHAMPTON

Sherrans Dell, Ettingshall Park

An attractive, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & part double glazed detached in short favoured cul de sac where houses are only rarely made available for sale. Delightful accommodation includes recessed porch, entrance hallway, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room (with patio doors), understair store, refitted kitchen with a range of 'shaker' style units & a quarry tiled floor. Three bedrooms (principal bedroom with wardrobes), reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with stylish white suite. Block paved driveway, carport, garage, secluded garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £163,950

COSELEY

NEW PRICE

Mason Street

A highly individual, PARTICULARLY SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated & primarily uPVC double glazed detached of character (believed to be one of the oldest houses in the neighbourhood) offering tremendous further potential. Accommodation includes; imposing reception hall (18' deep), fitted cloakroom, spacious 21'6" lounge, 21' dining kitchen with uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY beyond. FOUR BEDROOMS, separate toilet, bathroom. Potential car port space, sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £167,500, NOW £162,500

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GORNAL WOOD

Windsor Close

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Conveniently situated in short cul-de-sac just off Guys Lane; an EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed Link detached that has been conscientiously maintained & enhanced over the years, but offering further potential. Accommodation includes; entrance vestibule, inner hallway, cottage style lounge, extended 17'9" dining room with patio doors, tiled kitchen. Three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes, and third with extensive bookshelves),reappointed/re-tiled shower room. Lengthy 21'9" garage (with automated door) incorporating storage section, tiled utility room, and separate toilet beyond). Neat garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £161,950

WALL HEATH

Victoria Street

A LARGE DOUBLE-FRONTED SEMI-DETACHED TRADITIONAL BUNGALOW within a sought after and convenient location, having been recently BEAUTIFULLY REFURBISHED and COMPLETELY RE-APPOINTED throughout, providing ready to move into accommodation which includes GAS CENTRAL HEATING, REPLACEMENT UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING, comprising: Recessed Porch, Through Reception Hall, generous Lounge with walk-in bay, large refitted Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and LUXURY REFITTED BATHROOM. The property is set beyond the attractive front garden with DRIVEWAY and, to the rear, enjoying a LARGE SUNNY REAR GARDEN with decking, patio and lawns. EPC Rating D. KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£159,950

TIPTON

Benbeck Grove (Off Sedgley Road)

A realistically priced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & Upvc double glazed detached with potential requiring some sympathetic updating set in short/quiet cul-de-sac just off Sedgley Road. The accommodation provides; entrance hallway, through living room (with patio doors), dining room, kitchen, store, garden room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, and additional 7'3" width access to the garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £149,950

LOWER GORNAL

Deepdale Lane

Deceptively spacious, ENLARGED, three bedroom semi detached with BASEMENT FLAT that has been 'transformed' in recent years and the gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed accommodation comprises: Ground floor - entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room & enlarged/updated kitchen with 'conservatory section', large store/utility room (former garage). First floor - three bedrooms & a reappointed shower room (former bathroom). Staircase (approach from hall or the store room) down to a 'lower ground floor flat' comprising entrance section, bathroom, living/dining/bedroom areas with a kitchen section. Neat rear garden. good distant views. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £149,950, NOW £146,250

BRIERLEY HILL

Bromley

This MUCH IMPROVED AND VERY WELL PRESENTED, TRADITIONAL, THREE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME affords a layout with UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING AND GAS CENTRAL HEATING to comprise: Entrance Hall, Attractive Sitting Room, Dining Room, SPENDID MODERN KITCHEN with a fine range of units, Utility, Guest Cloakroom/W.C., three good Bedrooms (Master with fitted wardrobes), re-appointed Bathroom with white suite and separate Shower Cubicle. Large Driveway and with a pleasant Rear Garden. VIEWING ADVISED. EPC Rating E. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

Offers in the Region Of £139,950

SEDGLEY

Padarn Close, Northway

An immaculately presented, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated end townhouse situated in an established location & well worthy of internal inspection. The stylish accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, transverse lounge, dining kitchen with a fine range of units, three good bedrooms, bathroom & a pleasant low maintenance garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £124,950

KINGSWINFORD

Standhills Road

A DISTINCTIVE, EXPENSIVELY IMPROVED, TRADITIONAL MID TERRACE HOME which is conveniently located within this very popular tree-lined address and offering IMMACULATE, BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation, all of which is IMPRESSIVELY SPACIOUS throughout and comprising: Reception Hall, spacious attractive Lounge, DELIGHTFUL CONSERVATORY, beautifully appointed Kitchen with separate Dining Room Area off, TWO EXCELLENT SIZED BEDROOMS, attractively refitted Bathroom, GAS CENTRAL HEATING and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING. With superb attractive frontage including low maintenance slate chipped foregarden, together with GOOD SIZED CRETE PRINT STYLE DRIVEWAY and enjoying a beautifully maintained and pleasantly laid out rear garden. EPC Rating - C KINGSWINFORD OFFICE 01384 401777

£119,950

COSELEY

Mount Pleasant Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. This beautifully presented, uPVC double glazed (vast majority of units), gas centrally heated mid terrace may be of particular interest to first time buyers and is well worthy of internal inspection. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, rear lobby/verandah, kitchen with a fine range of units/integrated appliances, re-fitted bathroom with white suite, three bedrooms & rear garden. EPC Rating: E. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £116,950

COSELEY

Kenelm Road

A delightful, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently situated within convenient distance of so many amenities, bus/rail transport routes, etc. Accommodation provides reception hall, understair store, dining room with bay, enlarged lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms (two with cupboards), recently reappointed stylish fully tiled shower room with white contemporary suite, off road parking, sheltered/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £119,950, NOW £115,950

SEDGLEY

Rowan Road

An attractive, conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential set in popular/convenient district. Accommodation includes reception hall, store, lounge, dining room, kitchen, lobby & large 'wet/shower room'; three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking (kerb dropped), delightful level rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

COSELEY

Redwood Road

This immaculately presented, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated semi detached has been conscientiously maintained by the current owners and may be of particular interest to first time buyers. The impressive property briefly comprises entrance hall, stylish lounge, kitchen, splendid CONSERVATORY addition, two double bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, garage, driveway & a low maintenance garden. EPC Rating: D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £109,950

LOWER GORNAL

The Spinney

An EXTENDED, gas radiator centrally heated & part double glazed intermediate 'starter home' in need of some sympathetic updating set in relatively quiet cul de sac within reasonable distance of open fields, together with all amenities. Accommmodation provides enlarged porch, inner hallway, kitchen, extended 23'7" living/dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, small garden & a brick GARAGE to the rear. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £105,000

SEDGLEY

Dudley Road

Absolutely outstanding, THREE BEDROOM, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated intermediate terrace that has been TRANSFORMED by present vendors over the years to provide a superb home. The stylish accommodation includes; lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, guest w.c. Two first floor bedrooms, splendid refitted bathroom with white suite, attic bedroom three, and an expertly tended rear garden.EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

WAS £99,950, NOW £96,950

HOLLY HALL

Hallchurch Road

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed, Two Bedroom Semi Detached home provides well proportioned living space, and may be of particular interest to FIRST TIME BUYERS. Accommodation briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Through Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, and a pleasant Rear Garden. EPC Rating F. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265

£94,995

QUARRY BANK

Birch Avenue

This traditional style, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated, two/three bedroom semi detached home is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, and may be of interest to first time buyers or young families. The well presented property briefly comprises: entrance hall, stylish lounge, modern kitchen with a fine range of units, guest w.c, two double bedrooms, study/occasional bedroom three, bathroom, driveway, and a lawned rear garden. EPC Rating C. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£94,950

GORNAL WOOD

Flavells Lane

A distinctive & highly individual, freehold, uPVC double glazed & gas centrally heated double fronted cottage of character with further potential. Enjoying good distant views from the front, the property is set well back from the lane (pedestrian access ony) and comprises entrance porch, dining room, central hallway, lounge with patio doors, kitchen, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, garden designed for 'low maintenance'. No Parking. EPC Rating E.SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £89,950

DUDLEY

Occupation Street

A particularly stylish, significantlly modernised, gas centrally heated, "combi boiler" and uPVC double glazed intermediate terrace in established/convenient district. Accommodation includes; living room with bay, inner lobby with understairs store, breakfast kitchen with a range of "Old English Cream" finish units, and a tiled lobby/utility room. Two bedrooms, reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with white contemporary style suite. Comparatively secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY OFFICE 01902 880888

Offers in the region of £81,500

NETHERTON

Darby End Road

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, is this improved and well presented one bedroomed first floor flat having double glazing and requiring internal inspection comprising: Welcoming hall with intercom receiver, delightful lounge with feature fireplace, kitchen, double bedroom, re-fitted bathroom, rear garden and communal parking. EPC Rating D. BRIERLEY HILL OFFICE 01384 265265.

£56,950

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Carry on Clio with the new RS

By John Griffiths

IF cars were sold on their sound alone, I suspect the new Clio Renaultsport 200 would be roaring out of the showroms as fast as they could make them.

There can't be many true petrolheads who won't feel their pulses quicken at the unexpectedly deep exhaust growl which follows a press of the start button.

It's a pleasing soundtrack on the road, too, particularly as you go down through the new six-speed semi-automatic gearbox, and the system automatic blips the throttle to match engine and road speed for a smoother change.

It's an added thrill for enthusiastic drivers who, let's face it, are the sort of people likely to buy a 200bhp, £18,995 'hot' hatchback.

But environmentalists and neighbours don't despair: from the outside the Clio RS's twin exhausts won't rattle your windows or set off every car alarm in the street.

What Renault has done is to install a 'sound pipe', a sort of ship's speaking tube, to carry the engine note to the cabin rather than the outside world.

In the days when even hot hatchbacks and GTs are generally more refined and quiet, it's a sort of a Proustian 'Madeliene Moment' of sound, evocative of less politically correct times.

The new Cio Renaultsport is lighter and turbocharging has boosted torque

The new Renaultsport Clio 200 has dumped its predecessor's normally aspirated two litre engine for a 1.6 litre turbo. In the process it's gained more torque, more pace and more efficiency in terms of lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

It also has a new twin clutch six speed transmission, which operates as a fully automatic or a very fast manual with up/down paddles behind the wheel.

Its appearance comes hot on the heels of another 1.6 turbo, the Fiesta ST, which is cheaper although a little behind on outright power and performance.

Clearly ths latest RS is based on the new Clio with a similar trendy yet practical interior, with the added touch of funky colour contrasts (the yellow test car had red piping on black seats and red seat belts).

It has five doors, too, with the additional interior and boot space of its sibling Clio IVs compared to the previous generation cars.

While maintaining the 200bhp of the previous Renaultsport Clio, the new car is lighter and turbocharging has boosted torque to an impressive 240Nm, from as low as 1,750rpm.

The result is a couple of tenths off the 0 to 62mph sprint time (now 6.7 seconds) while fuel consumption and emissions improve by a remarkable 24 per cent, to 44.6mpg and 144g/km.

That, of course, depends very much on how you drive it.

There are three operational modes beginning with 'normal' which gives a softer throttle response, lighter steering and early gearchanges from the automatic transmission.

Sport and Race modes progressively alter these settings to show more of the Renaultsport's true character: a conversation from Dr Jekyll to Mr Hyde.

Roadholding

The car has all the latest race-derived electronic wizardry to aid traction, roadholding and cornering, including oversteer and torque steer, once the twin demons of more powerful front wheel drive cars.

It also has bigger, more powerful brakes and a strengthened suspension system with more resstance to body roll.

The Renaultsport certainly doesn't demonstrate any sign of torque steer, which in previous generation pocket rockets could sometimes take you by surprise by veering sharply to the left under heavy acceleraton.

It's impossible to assess the Renaultsport's full handlng potential on publc roads as most of the new systems such as the RS dfferental are race and rally-bred – so for you and I it should have capability to spare. But there s one feature of the new suspenson set-up that becomes obvious in the first mile and that's the big improvement in ride comfort: hot hatches don't have to rattle your teeth to be fun or competent.

It's a world first for Renault, the use of a hydraulic compression control developed for top class rallying in a production car.

It sounds complicated, but it's a secondary damping system which allows for less suspension rebound over bumps, while also reducing the extreme load variations on the tyres.

The 200 shares the standard hatchback's five star safety rating, and as well has the usual electronc systems such as ABS, traction and stability controls comes wth six airbags and child seat fixings

It's equipped with electric front windows, air conditioning, a seven-inch touch screen multimedia system including SatNav and hands-free communications, cruise control, adjustable speed limiter, multi-function trip computer, alloy wheels, split/fold rear seats, plus electrically heated and adjustable mirrors.

Outside, the car is distinguished by its unique 17-inch alloys, and a bodykit which includes body-coloured bumpers with an F1-style blade at the front, diffuser at the rear, aerodynamic side skrts and a rear spoiler.

Renault has a long history of motor sport success and of producing exciting 'hot' road cars and with its new 200 has taken an evolutionary step forward.

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Motoring

This red hot Vulcano will cost a cool £3m

The ultra-exclusive Vulcano, a one-off supercar with a one-off price of £3million makes its UK debut in September

A ONE-off supercar with a £3 million price tag is to make its UK debut in September.

The Vulcano, made by tiny and extremely niche manufacturer Icona, uses an advanced V12 petrol engine with an electric hybrid system to produce as much as 950 horsepower.

Icona claims a top speed of around 216mph for the car, which will go on show at the Salon Prive show within a 'concepts and prototypes' display. Another staggering performance figure for the Vulcano is its sub-nine seconds 0-120mph time, making it faster to that speed than most family hatchbacks are to 60mph.

Exclusive

With the chief engineer a certain Claudio Lombardi, formerly of Ferrari, the Vulcano offers a chance to own an ultra-exclusive and incredibly high performance supercar. Sales Director, David Bagley commented: "Icona is a very exciting new brand and we are delighted that it has chosen Salon Priv for the UK debut of the Vulcano.

"It's a beautiful car and it is going to look fantastic within the Concepts & Prototypes Display."

Tickets for the Salon Prive show can be purchased at www.salonprivelondon.com or by calling 0808 100 2205.

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Fuel consumption figures for CR-V range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 28.0 - 43.5 (10.1 - 6.5), Extra Urban 43.5 - 55.4 (6.5 - 5.1), Combined 36.7 - 50.4 (7.7 - 5.6). CO_2 emissions: 180 – 149g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from offi cial EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not refl ect real-life driving experience.

Model shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,005 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V S registrations from 1 July to 30 September 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £259 per month example based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in metallic/pearl paint at £22,005 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 36 months' **0% APR Representative** (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £5,673.81 (26%) deposit, Optional Final Payment of £7,007.06, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

Civic 1.4 SE, £199 a month, **0% APR** Representative, 4 years' servicing for £399

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 - 70.6 (8.7 - 4.0), Extra Urban 54.3 - 85.6 (5.2 - 3.3), Combined 44.1 - 78.5 (6.4 - 3.6). CO_2 emissions: 150 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in optional White Orchid Pearl at £17,495 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC registrations from 1 July to 30 September 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £199 per month based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in metallic/pearl paint at £17,495 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 36 months' **0% APR Representative** (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,909.22 (22%) deposit, Optional Final Payment of £6,421.90, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Four years' servicing or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first, for £399 including VAT and includes a maximum of four manufacturer's scheduled services.

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LOCAL CITROEN DEALER AUTOBASE HAVE ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF THEIR SPECIAL SUMMER OPEN DAY EVENT TAKING PLACE AT THEIR DARLASTON BRANCH THIS WEEKEND.

The event includes music, entertainment and a barbecue, along with an MOT Special Offer. Other reasons to go along feature a Free Car Wash, and Electronic Health Check on cars and vans and Free Body Repair Estimates - but perhaps the highlight of this VIP event is the opportunity to roll the dice and win a New Citroen Model up to the value of 12,000!

Autobase is a family run Midlands based business that has always enjoyed an enviable reputation for outstanding quality and service. Central to the company's continuing success has been its 'Total Service Philosophy' backed by a total commitment to quality and customer care.

Director and Dealer Principal, Ali Allibhai said "This weekend gives us an opportunity to showcase the Citroen range and our commitment to quality service, whilst at the same time offering some great attractions and a fun event where you could win a car". Ali has a hands-on approach to business, keen that all customers have a positive experience. Working closely with a team of managers, he is constantly striving to continually offer a professional service.

Ali said "As a new dealer we want to build customer relationships, so we are offering great value prices for all of our services. We have a vision to provide unrivalled customer support and offer a first class service. Our focus is on the quality of work undertaken. We have a purpose-built accident repair facility which utilises all the latest equipment and employ specially trained factory technicians".

The Open Day is the first of a series of events planned; and includes the launch of the new C4 Picasso. There will also be a VIP Event scheduled for August. Customers can register with Autobase to see further fantastic offers.

Autobase offers a complete range of services that include prestige car sales, servicing and MOTs for all makes of vehicles, all type of mechanical and body repairs, a comprehensive parts stock capability - all from ultra modern premises featuring workshops that exploit the very latest innovations in repair technology. In short Autobase offers a one-stop motoring solution.

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FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE 55 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 57k, FSH.	£3995
KIA PICANTO 1.0 CHILL 09 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, 31k, FSH.	SOLD
PEUGEOT 308 1.6 SPORT 57 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 54k, FSH	£4495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 07 Reg, 5-dr, Air Con, Alloys, 34k, FSH	£4495
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi ELITE 57 Reg. Blue, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 64k, FSH.	£4995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCi PRIVILEGE 07 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 42k, FSH	SOLD
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JAGUAR S-TYPE 2.7 TD SE 05 Reg, 4-dr, Gold, Air Con, Alloys, Leather Seats, 58k, FSH.	£6495
FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE + 59 Reg, 5-dr, Green, 34k, SH	£6495
FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCi GHIA 57 Reg, 5-dr, Silver, 51k, FSH	£6795
BMW 130i SE 06 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 74k, FSH	£6995
MERCEDES E220 CDi AVANT GARDE AUTO 56 Reg, 4-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Leather Seats 54k, FSH.	£8995
SPORTS	
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MAZDA MX5 2.0 56 Reg, 2-dr, Silver, Alloys, 33k, FSH.	£6495
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BMW 130i SE

06 Reg, 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 74k, FSH £6995

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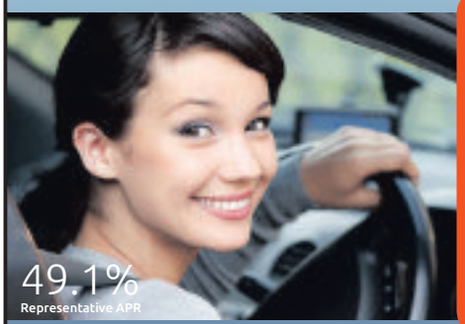

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) to 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) to 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 237 to 89g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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0958	CORSA CLUB 1.3CDTi 5DR AIR BLUE 30,000 MILES	£6495	£6295
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0959	CORSA SXi 1.416V 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 25,000 MILES	£6995	
1059	CORSA DESIGN 1.416V 3DR AIR BLUE 21,000 MILES	£6995	£6295
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1010	CORSA LIFE 1.216V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 16,500 MILES	£6695	£6495
1010	CORSA ENERGY 1.216V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 14,500 MILES	£6895	£6295
1010	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR SILVER LAKE 37,000 MILES	£6895	
1010	CORSA Sri 1.416V 3DR GLACIER WHITE 34,000 MILES B'TOOTH	£7795	
1060	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 17,500 MILES	£7795	
1060	CORSA SRi 1.416V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 18,000 MILES	£8495	£7795
1111	CORSA EXCITE 1.0 12V 3DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 14,500 MILES	£7495	
1111	CORSA LTD EDITION 1.2 16V 3DR WHITE/BLACK 22,500 MILES	£9995	£9595
1161	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 6,500 MILES	£8495	
1161	CORSA LTD EDITION 1.2 16V RED/BLACK 17,500 MILES	£10495	£9995
1212	CORSA SXi 1.216V 3DR GLACIER WHITE 12,500 MILES	£8395	£7995
1212	CORSA SXi 1.4 16V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 22,000 MILES	£7995	£7695
1212	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 13,500 MILES	£8750	£8495
1212	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 19,500 MILES	£8660	£8195
1212	CORSA SE 1.4 16V 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 17,500 MILES	£8730	£8295
1212	CORSA SE 1.416V 5DR SILVER LAKE 15,000 MILES	£8770	£8395
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1262	CORSA SRi 1.4 16V 3DR FLAME RED 6,000 MILES	£9995	
1262	CORSA Sri 1.4 16V 3DR GLACIER WHITE 9,850 MILES SAT-NAV	£11495	
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1111	MERIVA SE 1.4 16V 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 19,000 MILES	£9295	
1161	MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1.4 16V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 9,000 MILES	£9495	£8995
1262	MERIVA ACTIVE 1.4 TURBO SOVEREIGN SILVER 6500 MILES	£10495	
1313	MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTi AUTO WHITE DELIVERY MILES	£13995	£13695
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1212	INSIGNIA Sri 2.0CDTi 160ps SPORTS TOURER NAV WHITE 16,200 MILES R/P/S	£15350	£14795
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0606	ZAFIRA DESIGN 1.9CDTi 120ps STAR SILVER 60,000 MILES	£5995	£5695
0656	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.9CDTi 120ps SILVER LIGHTNING 38,000MILES	£6495	
0656	FORD FOCUS SPORT 1.8 16V 5DR MET BLUE 55,000 MILES	£4995	£4495
0656	CORSA SXi 1.216V 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 32,000 MILES A/CON	£4995	
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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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01384 270977.

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CITROEN XSARA Picasso, 54 plate, petrol, tax/MoT, nice clean condition, air con, £1,800 ono. 07917 083003.

FIAT PUNTO, 2005, 41,000 miles, blue, electric windows, long MoT, sunroof, tax, alloys, petrol, £2,200. 07702 024899.

FORD FOCUS 1.6, petrol, titanium, 05 reg, 60,000 miles, leather, 3-door, alloys, MoT May 2014, tax Oct 2013, £2,750. 07535 575848.

MUST BE SEEN

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01384 213950.

HONDA CRV diesel 2.2 i CTDi SE, 5dr, 05 reg, 59K, full MoT, tax Dec, very good condition, £5,950 ono. 01384 379430, 07721 098811.

HONDA CRVi CTDi, 06, sport, grey, MoT May 2014, tax April 2104, 70K, fsh, EW / sunroof, 6 speed, manual, £6,250. 07877 501671.

JAGUAR X TYPE
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07947 950882. 01384 864058.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 SPORT
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07766 142379.

MAZDA MX5 1.8, gold metallic, 1999, taxed, MoT May 2014, excellent condition, £2,100 o.n.o. 01902 570026.

MAZDA MX5 1.8S, blue metallic, 1999, 12 months MoT, excellent condition, £2,000 ono.
Telephone 07768 327112.

MG MIDGET 1500, T reg, 1978, blue, MoT till March 2014, tax Sep 2013, unleaded conversion, good condition, £1,700. 07974 674934.

★ **MINI SPRITE**, 1994, blue, super condition, runs really well, 45,000 miles, fsh, long MoT, tax, alloys, £3,495. 01384 378279.

NISSAN XTRAIL 2.0i manual, 2002, superb condition, 2 owners, MoT Dec, tax, real value, £1,699. 01384 873411 or 07711 688220.

★ **PEUGEOT 206 URBAN** 1.4, 2006, 35,200 miles, metallic black, petrol, airbag, air con, fsh, long MoT, one owner, tax, 5 door, £3,000. 07583 792575.

PEUGEOT 206CC CONVERTIBLE 1.6 Allvre, 49,000 miles, alloys, full leather interior, taxed, full MoT, silver, £1,995. 07761 078145.

★ **PEUGEOT 207 VERVE** 2009, red, aircon, MoT, central locking, one owner, tax, alloys, stereo, CD, petrol, USB, Bluetooth £4,250 ono. 07920 067381

RANGE ROVER Vogue 4.6, X reg, taxed MoTd, silver, drives well, lots of new parts, £1,595. 01902 682353, 07791 512408.

RENAULT CLIO 1.5 diesel, 35,000 miles, tax/MoT April 2014, silver, service history, £1,650. 07990 589676.

TOYOTA MR2 Convertible, Ltd Edition, red leather interior, lady owner, 44k, 04 reg, 11 months MoT / tax, £3,450 ovno. 07976 913502.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXi 1.6, 55, full MoT, 3 months Tax, good,clean car, first to see will buy, £2,650 ono. 07989 422885 / 07904 653488.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2004, met black, 12 months MoT, taxed, 72k miles, fsh, good condition, £1,879. 07973 859951 or 01384 351878.

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FORD FOCUS 1.8 diesel estate, 2002, long tax and MoT, 140k, clean, £595. 07935 855904.

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FORD MONDEO, 1999, 5 door, hatchback, MoT, tax, good condition, £550. 01902 258239.

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MGF 1.8 red, very good condition, low mileage, reluinctant sale, MoT/tax October 13, £1,395.
07756 915905.

NISSAN MICRA S, 52, silver, MoT, tax, CD player, good condition, £800 ono. 01384 77221.

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PEUGUOT 206 look 2001, 92,000 miles, blue, airbag, aircon,,alarm, central locking, pas, alloys, petrol, £1,450 ono. 07711 096689

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 2002, mettalic burgundy, taxed, sunroof, alloys, MoT'd, 74K miles, good condition, £795 ono. 07956 909034.

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TOYOTA RAV 4, 1998, 3dr, automatic, lovely condition, 12 months MoT, £1,500 ono.
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SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449**

PAULINE 36 intelligent easygoing female with GSOH looking for nice guy who wants to get know and connect with me, enjoys meals in/out, music and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406373**

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341**

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918**

PAULINE, passionate, intelligent, discreet married lady seeks discreet special man of any age, call for more info. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 339087**

JANET looking for handsome prince to spoil me in return for lots of good fun and well deserved uncomplicated attention. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405823**

NEW to dating and a little nervous, Susan very attractive 30yr old curvy single mum, looking for fun times with similar outgoing male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405809**

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015**

DISCREET kind man sought by married lady, must be discreet and reliable as am I. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 355785**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319**

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

NAT easygoing pretty, honest 24yrs, enjoys cosy nights in, romantic walks, holidaying, keeping fit, WLTM fun, loving, energetic male, looks/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406117**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

SUSAN 34 attractive looking to find that special connection with a nice guy who would enjoy spending good times with me and share new interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406109**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115**

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407**

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

ATTRACTIVE lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325**

SHAZ 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTM appreciative guy **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819**

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

SUSIE fun loving mum with GSOH seeks gentle considerate to get to know better. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404627**

JANE 48yrs West Midlands, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, looking for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403949**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

SHELLEY 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

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BLACK female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269**

GALE looking for old fashioned man with old fashioned values to sweep me off my feet, enjoy adult fun times and maybe even more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405259**

CHRISTINA 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

MANDY friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405229**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

SINGLE MEN

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MALE seeking female, 40-55, discretion assured, status unimportant for daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406433**

SHARP dressed man, mature, fun, seeks smart, size 10 lady, any age for friendship and relationship. Hereford. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405323**

58YR old male, likes nights in/out, looking for N/S female, 40-60 for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405975**

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

GARY 39 seeks female 30-50 for fun, maybe relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404487**

38YR old farm worker, medium build, seeks female of similar age for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406331**

ATTRACTIVE tall, professional male, GSOH, easy going, likes sport, socialising, seeks female for fun and live life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406317**

CHRIS 45, genuine, honest, caring, N/S, likes cinema, theatre, socialising, seeks genuine, N/S female, 39-45, single mum welcome for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406295**

46YR old stocky male, no ties, shaved head, likes walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeking female for relationship, are you the one? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406291**

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259**

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257**

MAURICE 50's, seeking N/S female for nights out, friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400425**

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163**

MALE 50, fit, friendly, down to earth, broadminded, seeks bored female for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 372407**

GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405551**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

ROUGH diamond 45 looking for older lady, the older the better, for fun times, can accommodate, let me entertain you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404437**

GEOFF 60's, tall, seeking nice lady for fun, friendship, relationship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406077**

PAUL 46, brown/blond hair, 6ft, slim, single dad, genuine, down to earth, fun loving, kind, caring, likes most things seeking female for love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406007**

GAY SINGLES

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892**

FRIENDS

JULIE straight female, GSOH, seeking new female friends, 40-50, young 49, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, 5ft 7ins, enjoy walks, holidays, meals out, cinema, travel, music. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406127**

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Beacon's batsmen chase 267 for victory

Tales from The Bratch

BEACON'S batsmen ran into form to lead their side to an impressive Staffs Club Premier Division success against Hammerwich.

New signing Michael Brookes led the victory charge as Beacon chased down a target of 267 with over three overs to spare.

He ended unbeaten on 63 and shared a key seventh-wicket stand with Craig Jones (51) that fired Beacon over the line. Skipper Roger Fildes (59) and South African James Baikoff (38) had earlier made valuable contributions.

Tom Elwell was the pick of the Beacon bowlers, bagging 4-56, while James Fildes picked up 3-83 and Harry Hodgetts 2-59 as Hammerwich were bowled out for 266.

The seconds saw their recent good run end in an 84-run defeat at Hammerwich.

The firsts were on the wrong end of a high scoring encounter with Stourbridge in the Worcestershire Sunday League. Baikoff hit a superb 147 as Beacon made 301-5 of 40 overs but the hosts edged home with a ball and three wickets to spare.

Yeltz ladies pull off total whitewash

Halesowen 11
Atherstone 0

Premiership Atherstone travelled to Halesowen as the Yeltz ladies started their preseason campaign,

Due to winning the league last season, morale was high and all players were looking forward to playing a good premiership side.

This should have been a tough game but Halesowen didn't read the script and pressed the visitors from the off.

Within five minutes Halesowen had taken the lead with a low drive by Sian Whithall.

Rachel Letford then scored four goals within 33 minutes. New signing Haley Chatters made it six just before half time.

Lyndsey Glover scored a second half hat-trick and then Letford and Chatters also added to their tallies late on in the game.

Blackbird grabs a memorable victory

Lewis Blackbird leads Ashley Morris at a bend

Speedway

DUDLEY finally provided a home winner in the Golden Hammer as Lewis Blackbird held his nerve to take a memorable win in the prestigious event.

The in-form 26-year-old put in a classy display to become the first Heathens rider since Billy Hamill in 1996 to lift the historic trophy.

In a fitting twist, it was American legend Hamill who handed over the prize, having attended the meeting as guest of honour.

Hamill, in the country as manager of the United States team in the World Cup, received a rapturous reception from the fans. Blackbird was absolutely ecstatic as he joined some of speedway's biggest names as a Golden Hammer winner. Blackbird came out on top of a Monmore Green field that included Heathens team-mates Paul Starke and Ashley Morris among the favourites for the title.

He said: "I'm absolutely over the moon – it was great to win that, everything is going well for me and my hard work is starting to pay off. It's a nice one to win for the fans."

Blackbird kicked off his evening in fine style with a win – yet he was left trailing behind the quick Steve Worrall in his second outing. However, he bounced back in impressive style to record back-to-back race wins – the latter following a close three-way battle with Ashley Morris and Brady Kurtz in heat 14.

Yet while Blackbird continued to star, 2012 champion Kyle Newman had also moved on to 11 points as joint leader entering the final round of heats. With a tight finale in prospect, Newman was unable to take victory against impressive Aussie youngster Kurtz in his final outing, ending on 13.

That gave Blackbird the chance to steal victory in his final ride – and after a nervous wait due to a tapes malfunction, he out-gated team-mate Starke to take the chequered flag.

Backing for Heathens despite loss of Clegg

HEATHENS chairman Nigel Pearson is backing Dudley to stay in the play-off race in the absence of big-scoring reserve Max Clegg.

He crashed in a junior meeting at Redcar last week and suffered a fractured left ankle which could keep him out for up to two months. He's due to see a specialist this week when he should get a clearer indication about the length of time his recovery will take. Heathens are set to use a guest rider to replace him in next Tuesday's home meeting with Kent at Wolverhampton when they are looking for more valuable National League points.

Speedway

Pearson said: "It's a blow for Max and we wish him well for a speedy recovery.

"The timing could hardly be any worse because one more meeting and he would have got a new average which would see him in the main body of the team and we could use the rider replacement facility for him.

"But right now we have to look at using a three-point unattached rider to replace him and that weakens us significantly.

"It also means there will be a bit more pressure on our second string riders Dan Greenwood and Gareth Isherwood to do the business.

"But I had a chat with our manager, Will Pottinger, over the weekend and we have agreed the priority is for us to win our home meetings, if we can do that then there is every chance we will reach the play-offs.

"We're also confident of picking up some points on the road so we still feel we can do it and hopefully Max will be fit for the most important time of the season.

"He's been great for us so far this year and there is no way we will consider signing a replacement as long as there is every chance he will be back in a few weeks.

"All our new signings have done a great job this season and this is a big blow to young Max."

Tickets are still on sale for the Cradley 83 celebration night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on August 23.

The Heathens team of 1983 won the British League title with just two league defeats and they also lifted the Knockout Cup.

They are regarded as one of the greatest teams the sport has ever seen in the UK, The club have organised a 30th anniversary evening with riders Jan O. Pedersen and Alan Grahame and manager Peter Adams.

Tickets priced £10 are available from the track shop next Tuesday or the club's official website www.dudleyheathens.co

Jordanne makes history in the mixed doubles

Great Britain's Jordanne Whiley in action with her partner Marc McCarroll in the Mixed Doubles Final against David Phillipson and Louise Hunt in the British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships

BLACK Country tennis player Jordanne Whiley made up for women's doubles disappointment at the British Wheelchair Tennis Open by powering to a historic mixed doubles title in Nottingham with partner Marc McCarroll.

The pair's clash with fellow Brits David Phillipson and Louise Hunt was moved indoors because of inclement weather but they powered to a confident 6-2, 6-1 victory.

It was the inaugural mixed doubles competition to be played at the Nottingham event and Whiley, of Halesowen, admits she was pleased the pair were able to add their names to the history books.

"It's been a great experience to get together and play some mixed doubles and very enjoyable," she said. "It's been played at some other Super Series events that we've not been at together, so it's fantastic to get the chance.

"We've had a great time, It's been a lot of fun and after getting knocked out in the singles earlier in the week it's lovely to finish out home Super Series on a high."

Cricket club open days for The Ashes

HIMLEY Cricket Club is opening its doors to everyone who wants to watch The Ashes live.

The Stouridge Road club will join more than 300 others nationwide which will be screening the series on Saturday and Sundays.

Himley's open day will be Saturday August 3 for the third Ashes Test from Old Trafford.

As well as keeping one eye on the test match, there will also be live action with a kwik cricket match where Himley take on Shrewsbury in a Birmingham Premier League fixture starting at noon.

There will also be a chance for cricket fans to test their batting skills against the bowling machine or take part in the catching competition against the fielding machine during tea.

Himley's award-winning junior section will be giving away training session vouchers and there will be information about membership of Himley's senior men's and ladies teams.

There will also be a display of pictures and mementoes of Himley's 130 year history. Entry is free and there is a licensed bar, food and parking available.

Himley sign West Indies all-rounder

HIMLEY Cricket Club have signed all-rounder Sergio Fedee as their overseas player for the remainder of the season.

Fedee has captained St Lucia and played first class cricket for the Windward Islands as well as representing the West Indies Under-19s in the 2002 world cup.

As a welcome for Fedee, the club have organised a Caribbean night on Saturday August 10 starting at 7.30pm.

There will be a steel band and disco as part of the celebration. Tickets are available from the bar at £6.

On the same day the club will celebrate 25 years since the they played at Lords in the 1988 village final.

Players and officials who were part of the team on the day are expected to show up.

Also, the 1st team will be playing at home against West Bromwich Dartmouth starting at noon.

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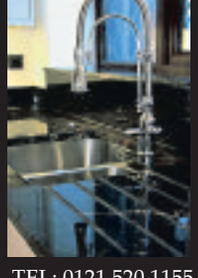

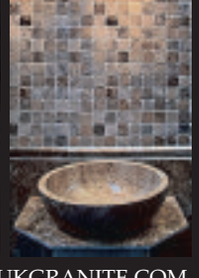

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SPORT

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Blackbird grabs memorable win
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Mixing it up
Whiley and McCarroll take the tennis title
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Thriller last heat clinches victory

Wolves 46 Swindon 44

AS speedway meetings go, this Monmore offering had a bit of everything.

It was a returning club legend who played his part along with the current golden boy in a last-gasp victory which plundered two precious points for Wolves against the reigning champions to keep them top of the table.

Veteran Peter Karlsson and star man Tai Woffinden combined for a memorable heat 15 5-1 to ensure Wolves snatched victory from the jaws of defeat following a scintillating night of action.

Neither Woffinden nor guesting No.1 Karlsson enjoyed their finest evenings as both suffered mixed fortunes.

But the duo did the business when it mattered as they stormed underneath Robins skipper Hans Andersen on the opening lap to take a match-winning maximum.

It proved the final twist in what was a rollercoaster evening.

Having raced into an eight-point lead within the opening seven races, Wolves looked set for a comfortable victory.

Swindon hit back but with the result still hanging in the balance as the sides headed into the last heat decider it was Woffinden and Karlsson who took the glory.

Clark staying on as Villain

DEFENDER Ciaran Clark has signed a new three-year deal with Villa.

The Ireland international, who has been captain at both club youth and first-team level, has been rewarded for his rise through the ranks.

Clark follows last season's Player of the Year Brad Guzan and fellow Academy graduates Andi Weimann and Nathan Baker in penning new contracts this summer, along with midfield lynchpin Ashley Westwood.

"From a personal point of view, I really couldn't be more delighted or proud," he said.

"I've been here since I was 12 years-old, progressing from the younger teams through the youth team along with players such as Marc Albrighton, Barry Bannan and another couple who have just signed new deals in Nathan Baker and Andi Weimann.

Spinner takes four after Round hits 91 in win

Cricket

HIMLEY enjoyed a 141-run win over struggling Walmley. Nathan Round (91) and Tom Kohler-Cadmore (70) helped piled up 288-8 before dismissing Walmley for 147 in the Premier Division.

Off-spinner Ryan Brown, 19, took 4-36 and Danny Smith 3-39.

Kidderminster Victoria dropped to third after failing to beat bottom club Wombourne. Vics earned a winning draw while Brockhampton went second after a 57-run victory at form team Wolverhampton.

Kidderminster slumped to 99-6 before a seventh-wicket stand of 87 between Richard Kimberlin (61) and Jonathan Wright (53) helped them to 216 all out in 52.5 overs, with Dorset seamer Ed Denham taking 6-67 for Wombourne (172-8). Experienced Vics seamer Gareth Williams finished with 5-42.

Wolverhampton (155 all out) lost by 57 runs to Brockhampton (212-7) despite Bangladeshi Test player Enamul Haque taking 4-53 and Worcestershire's Chris Russell 3-62. Adam Quiney top-scored with an unbeaten 35 for Wolves. Walsall were eight-wicket victors as they restricted visitors Knowle & Dorridge to 205-8 with two wickets each for Josh Bowker and Jack Warren. The Gorway side clinched victory with 16 overs to spare following a second-wicket stand of 116 between Tim Maxfield (106 not out) and David Powles (57).

West Bromwich Dartmouth (179) enjoyed a five-run win at Berkswell (174). Dartmouth wobbled to 85-6 and 113-8 but Junead Zaman (36) and Mohammed Saqib (27) helped them recover. Brinder Phagura (3-39) and Zaman (3-18) did damage for Dartmouth.

In Division One, Smethwick (178) had a winning draw against Barnards Green (155-9). Kuldeep Diwan hit 56 for Smethwick, then took 4-38. Brewood made visitors Old Hill work hard for their five-wicket victory. Bruce Thomason hit an unbeaten 137 and skipper Cam-eron Fox hit 52 as Brewood piled up 269-4. But Old Hill, led by 109 from Nitesh Patel with 46 each from Mike Hingley and Danny Cox and 26 by Jared Daniels got there with a ball to spare.

Halesowen (157) lost by four wickets to Division Two leaders Old Elizabethans. Mahroof Azam took 4-49 for Halesowen.

Stourbridge had a winning draw at Stratford-upon-Avon. Matt Bradley (64 not out), Adam Lawley (57) and Alex Bingham (45) led Stour to 228-6. Stratford reached 199-8.

HENRY TO FINALISE RANGERS TRANSFER

WOLVES midfielder Karl Henry looks set to complete his on-off move to QPR – and faces the prospect of joining up with old foe Joey Barton.

The 30-year-old was due in west London to hold contract talks and undergo a medical after the clubs finally struck a deal late on Monday night.

An agreement had stalled on Saturday when it is understood talks broke down over personal terms. But the player and clubs reconvened to come to an arrangement satisfactory to all parties.

Wolves

Providing he passed a medical, Henry's seven-year Wolves career – making him the longest-serving outfield player – will end.

At the heart of the discussions with QPR was Henry's contract, and with three years left on his deal and a lucrative signing-on fee due on each of those three years, the Wolverhampton-born midfielder was due a substantial seven-figure sum from Wolves and a compromise needed to be reached.

Future

It remains to be seen whether Henry and Barton will play together, with Barton's Rangers future unclear after spending last season on loan at Marseille.

Henry and Barton clashed when Newcastle drew 1-1 at Molineux in August 2010.

Another confrontation came after Barton scored in QPR's 3-0 win at Wolves in September 2011 and he attempted to ridicule Henry by calling him 'Kelvin' on Twitter.

Henry gave Wolves largely sterling service after being signed from Stoke by Mick McCarthy for a bargain £100,000 in July 2006.

He went on to play 272 games for Wolves, placing him 38th on the club's all-time list of appearance makers and he captained the club to the Championship title in 2009.

But after struggling to maintain his previous form through the two relegation campaigns, new head coach Kenny Jackett placed Henry on the transfer list with Roger Johnson, Stephen Ward and Jamie O'Hara.

Meanwhile Kenny Jackett mounted the case for Wolves' new-look defence and insisted he is happy to plan without further signings to his back line.

Right-back Matt Doherty looks set to be the only survivor of the defence who were relegated from the Championship.

Full-back Sam Ricketts is a new arrival, Kaspars Gorkss and Christophe Berra have left and Johnson and Ward are transfer listed.

Jackett said: "In terms of their defending and their distribution from the back, we'll find a very good back four out of what is in the club.

"Unless we have any major injuries, we have good cover and competition in the back four and some good selection options."

Golfer Ryan's Open to joining pro ranks

Golfer Ryan Cornfield, aged 19, from Lower Gornal who has just won his first golf competition on tour

RYAN CORNFIELD maybe watching the likes of Lee Westwood and Tiger Woods from the seat of his armchair this month, but next year the 19-year-old hopes to be playing among them.

The teenager from Lower Gornal narrowly missed out on qualifying for this year's Open Championship at Muirfield, but he has ambitions to make next year's cut.

His hopes have been boosted by winning his first adult championship – the Tillman Trophy – in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

It follows his success in the Staffordshire Boys Open and Staffordshire Boys Amateur Championship in 2011.

He also won the West Midlands British Colleges Championship in the same year.

Disappointing

Cornfield, who has a handicap of -3, said: "It was pretty disappointing to miss out on qualifying for the Open. But I'm forever improving and I aim to get better and return next year to qualify, or get into the USA Open."

The competition in Somerset last month followed Cornfield's first year of a golfing scholarship at the University of South Carolina.

The former Ellowes Secondary School and King Edward VI College student aims to become a professional after finishing his four-year course.

His father Philip, 46, a production manager at Land Rover, said: "We are immensely proud of what Ryan has achieved."

Ryan first started playing golf as a 11-year-old at Himley Golf Club, later playing at Swindon Golf Club and now Enville Golf Club.

Violence halts a 'friendly'

Tipton 5 Pelsall Villa 3 (match abandoned)

THE latest step in Tipton Town's pre-season campaign ended in chaos as a 'friendly' with Pelsall Villa was abandoned.

The match ended after 72 minutes following violence involving Pelsall's captain Ashley Bellingham.

At the time of the abandonment, Tipton were leading 5-3, having raced into a 3-1 lead at half time.

Two first half goals from Mark Swann and a penalty from Danny Ashton gave Tipton the advantage before a Pelsall goal from the spot reduced the arrears.

In the second half, a Ricky Nicholls 30-yarder and another spot-kick from Ashton put the home side 5-1 up ahead.

With both sides ringing the changes and altering personnel on the field, Pelsall began an impressive looking fight back with goals from Daniel Battison and dragging the score back to 5-3.

Tipton Town accepted the apologies of the management of Pelsall Villa for the incident and said it should not be a reflection on the good name of Pelsall Villa FC.

Striker Griffiths keeps his place

WOLVES striker Leigh Griffiths today retained his place in Scotland's squad to face England at Wembley on August 14.

The 22-year-old, who made his first start in Scotland's 1-0 win against Croatia last time out, joins Albion duo James Morrison and Graham Dorrans, Villa's Alan Hutton and Barry Bannan plus Birmingham winger Chris Burke.

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